1

UEDA HAJIME

Q-Ko-Chan

The Earth Invader Girl

Honorifics Explained iv

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Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), or as a title at the end of one's name, or in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics, and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific, and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and it is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono" which means "lord." It is even a higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men amongst friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

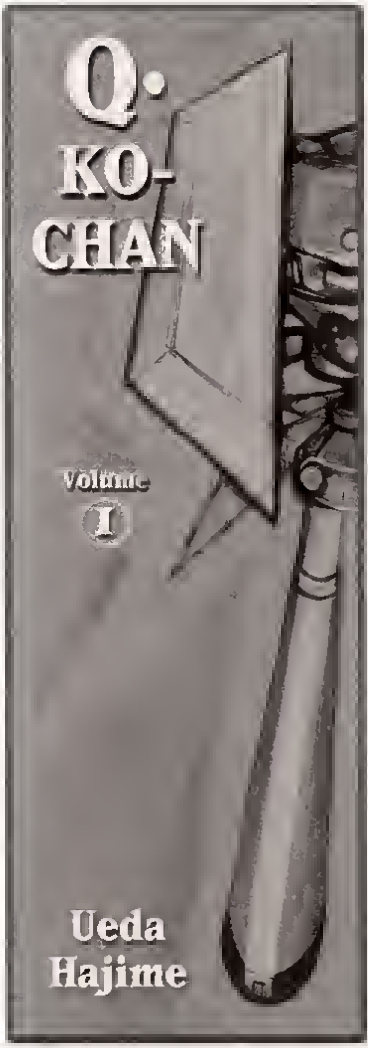
Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English term "kid" or "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "-sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.



Q

KIRIO MUJI—
OBSERVANT LEADER OF THE CLASS ODDBALLS, E-TEAM.
NÔRU MOMOZAWA—
GOOD-BOY TYPE WITH AN ARCANE SMILE. FEELS NO NEED TO BE GENEROUS
TATSUTA KATSUMOTO—
AN INTELLECTUAL AND A GYM DROPOUT.

MEI KUROZAWA—
DOESN'T HAVE A DARK SIDE. NEVER SEEN HER FATHER.
SHIINO INO—
AFRAID OF NEW THINGS. KNOWS THAT SHE'S CUTE.
KATSUKI USUMI—
CAN'T SEEM TO FIT IN. CAN'T GET USED TO HIS SITUATION.

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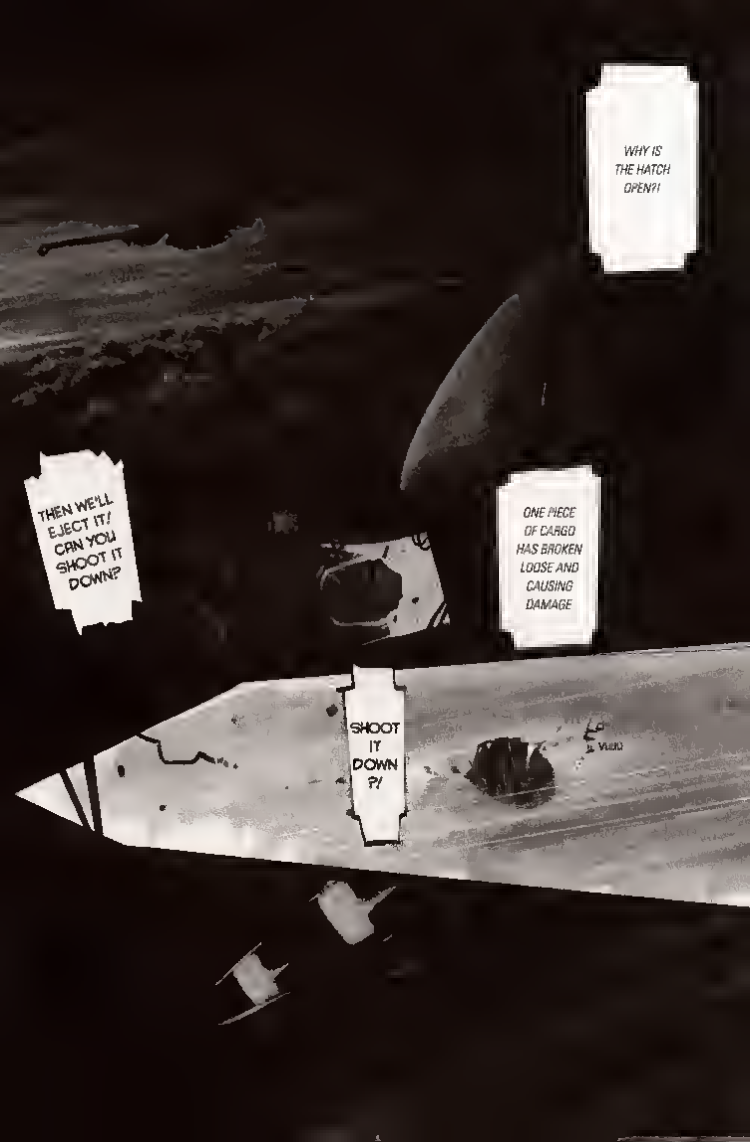

WHY IS THE HATCH OPEN?!
ONE PIECE OF CARGO HAS BROKEN LOOSE AND CAUSING DAMAGE
THEN WE'LL EJECT IT! CAN YOU SHOOT IT DOWN?
SHOOT IT DOWN?!

#1

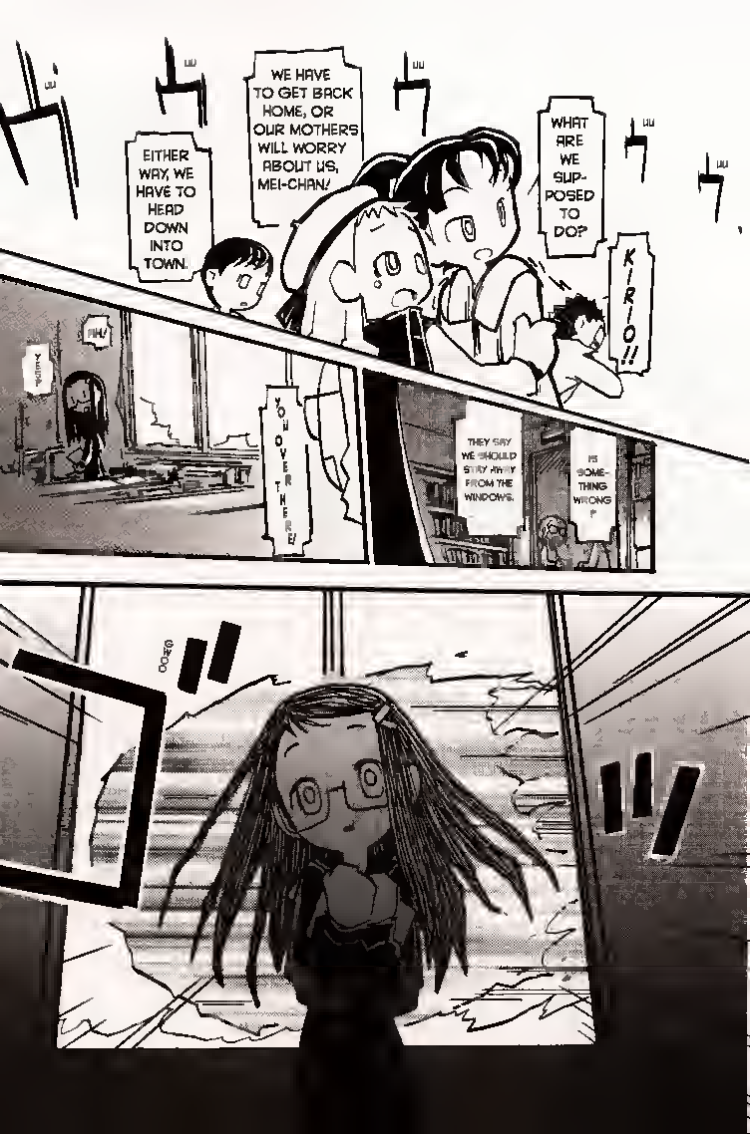
AH/
SOME MORE
JSDF HORNETS
ARE FLYING
BY.
EH?
THAT'S
YOUR
SISTER
WALKING
OUT THERE,
KIRIO-KUN.
I
KNOW
THERE
HASN'T
BEEN A
JSDF FOR
A LONG
TIME
NOW.

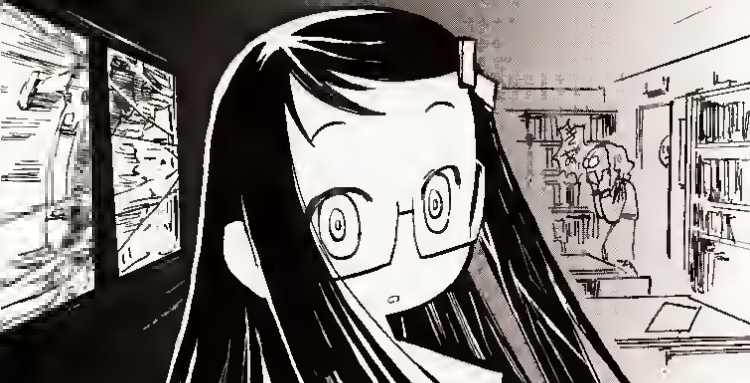
IS SHE OUT OF THE SHELTER EARLY AGAIN?
WHAT'S THAT?
FURIKO!! DID YOU DITCH TO HEAD FOR THE LIBRARY AGAIN?!
WHACK

THE AFTERNOON CLEANING PERIOD HAS ALREADY STARTED!
DID YOU SNEAK INTO THE CHILDREN'S LOUNGE?!
HEY! MUJI! KATSUMOTO! MOMOZAWA!
SHE HATES YOU.
WHAT'D YOU EXPECT?
HEY!! SHE RAN AWAY.
THERE'S ANOTHER REASON I WENT ME TO SAY...
HEY YOU GUYS DON'T HELP OUT WITH THE CLEANING, YOU'RE BREAKING SCHOOL RULES AND YOU'LL GET DEMERITS.
SLAP
SLAP
IT'S TRUE IS IT?
WE'RE CLEANING UP THE CHILDREN'S LOUNGE RIGHT NOW.
SHIINO-CHAN, LET'S DITCH THESE STUPID BOYS.
SURE!

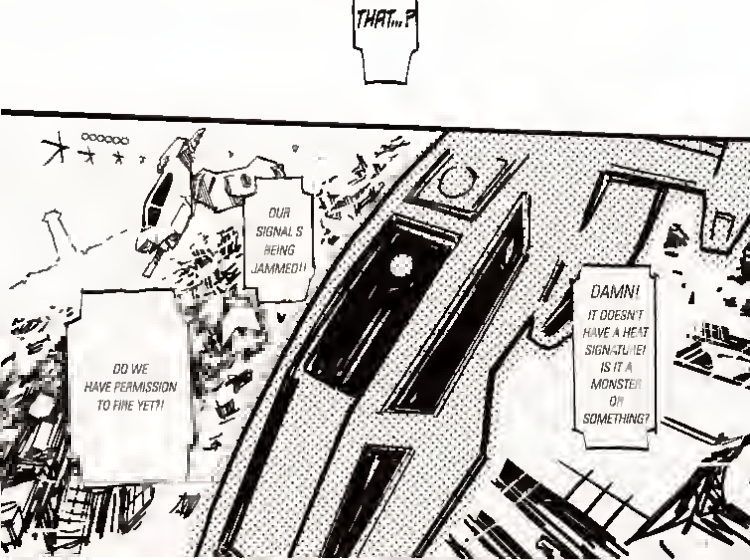
ヴォオオオ
VROO OOO
ANOTHER? THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM TODAY.
DID YOU SEE A FLASH OF LIGHT?
WHAT?
THUMP
THUMP
DOES EVERYBODY WANT TO COME TO MY PLACE?
WHAT'LL YOU ALL DO NOW?
THE LOCUSTS
EH?!

THEY'RE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE SHOPPING DISTRICT.
WHAT IS IT?
THEY'RE CHASING THAT THING.
WHAT IS THAT THING?
IT'S THE OLD AIR RAID SI-REN!
WE HEARD THESE WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
KIRIO!!
EHP!
I'M GO-ING TO SEE!


EITHER WAY, WE HAVE TO HEAD DOWN INTO TOWN.
WE HAVE TO GET BACK HOME, OR OUR MOTHERS WILL WORRY ABOUT US, MEI-CHAN!
WHAT ARE WE SUP-POSED TO DO?
KIRIO!!
YOU OVER THERE!
HM?
YUSUKE
THEY SAY WE SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS.
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
GECOO

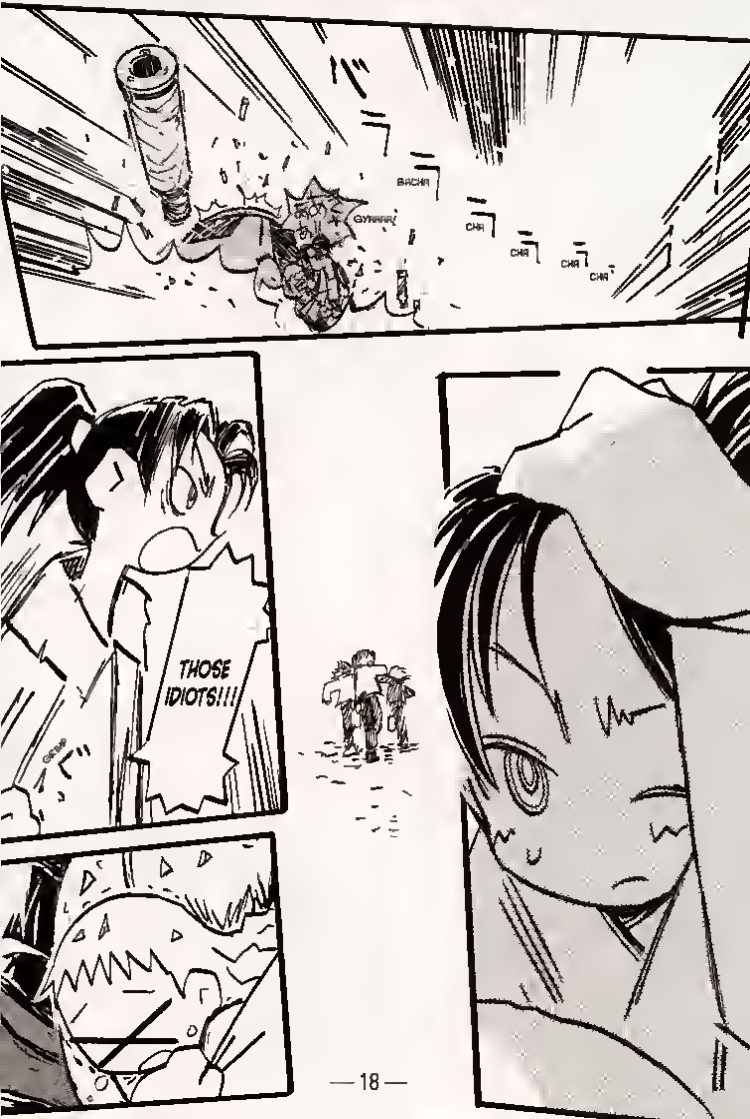


WHAT WAS THAT...?

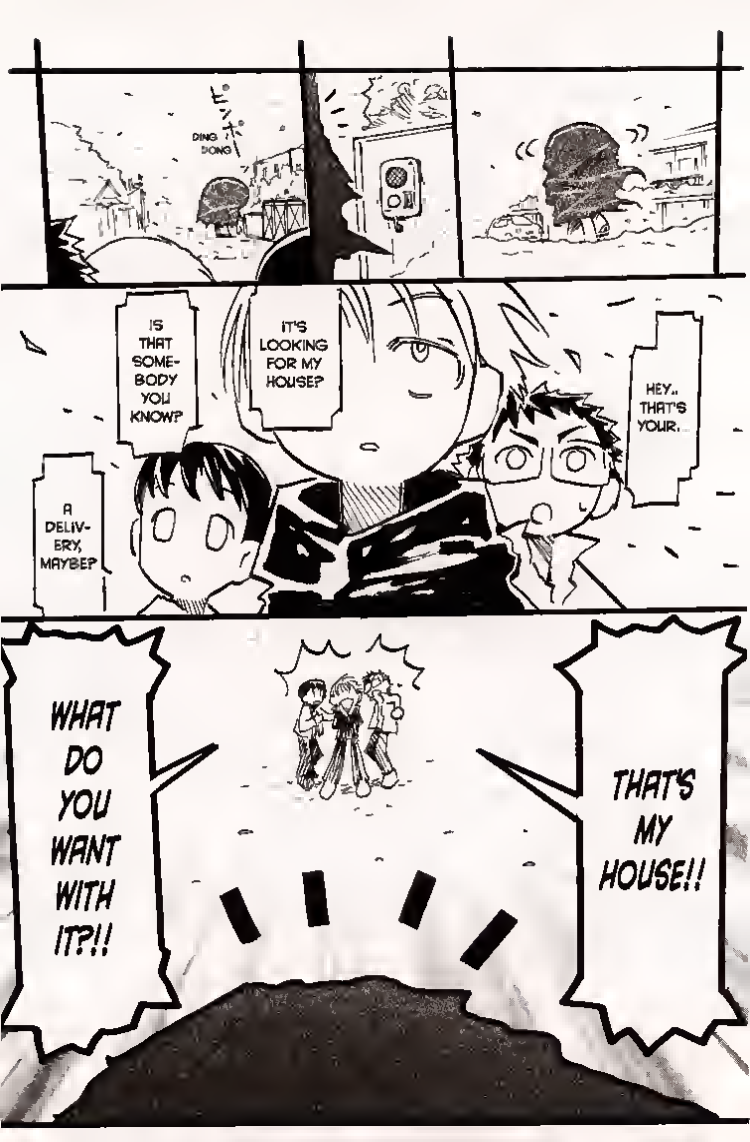

OUR SIGNAL'S BEING JAMMED!!
DO WE HAVE PERMISSION TO FIRE YET?!
DAMN!
IT DOESN'T HAVE A HEAT SIGNATURE! IS IT A MONSTER OR SOMETHING?

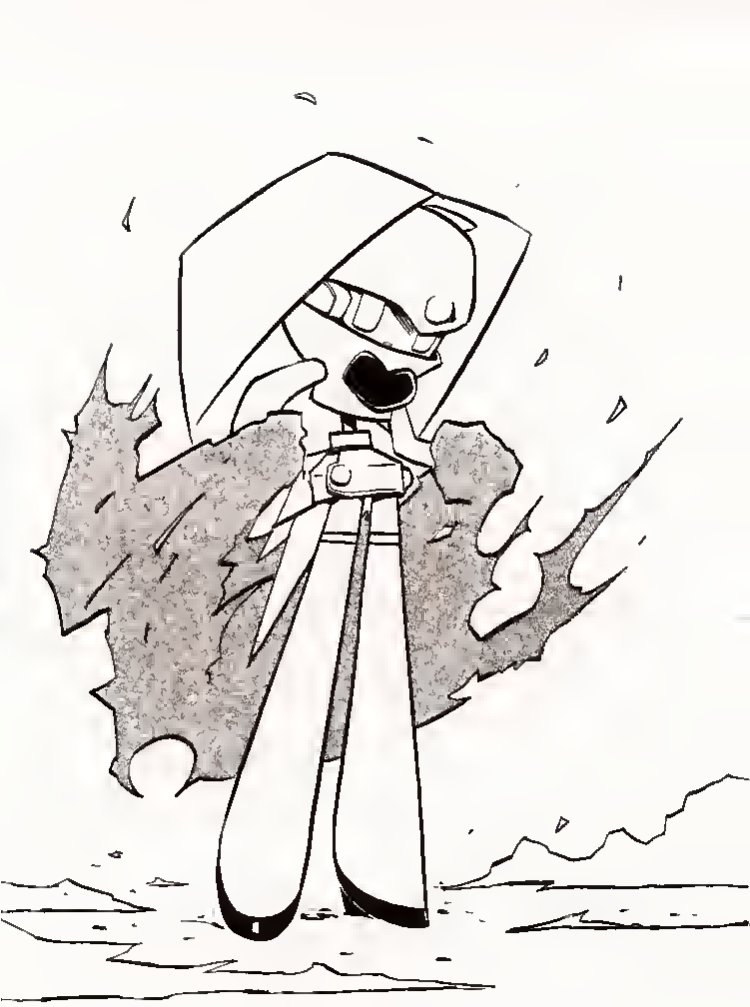
THIS TOWN HAS A LOT OF MILITARY FAMILIES! WELL?
DO IT! THE NEXT TIME IT APPEARS TAKE IT OUT!

I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE!!
MEMA!!
SHIINO-CHAN, GET IN THE CAR! HURRY!
YOUR FRIENDS TOO
KIRIO!
GET IN!
I'M FINE.
MY HOUSE IS REAL CLOSE...
WHAT THE HECK
WHY ISN'T HE SCARED?
DAMMIT
WAIT UP!!


BACHI
GYAAAA!
CHA
CHA
CHA
CHA
THOSE IDIOTS!!!
Grrrr

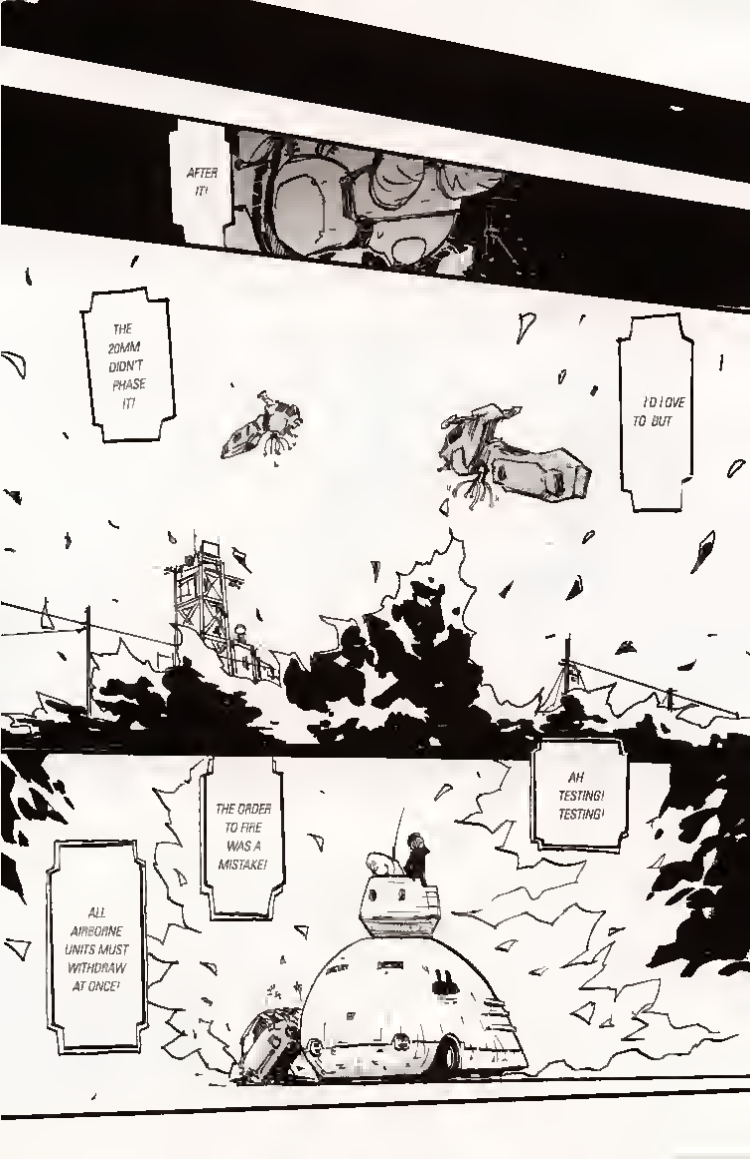
OW!!
KASHAN
KASHAN
A HAND!
BUT IT'S LOOKING FOR AN ADDRESS.
IT'S WALKING. A ROBOT MAYBE?


DING DONG
HEY.. THAT'S YOUR.
IT'S LOOKING FOR MY HOUSE?
IS THAT SOME-BODY YOU KNOW?
A DELIV-ERY, MAYBE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH IT?!!
THAT'S MY HOUSE!!

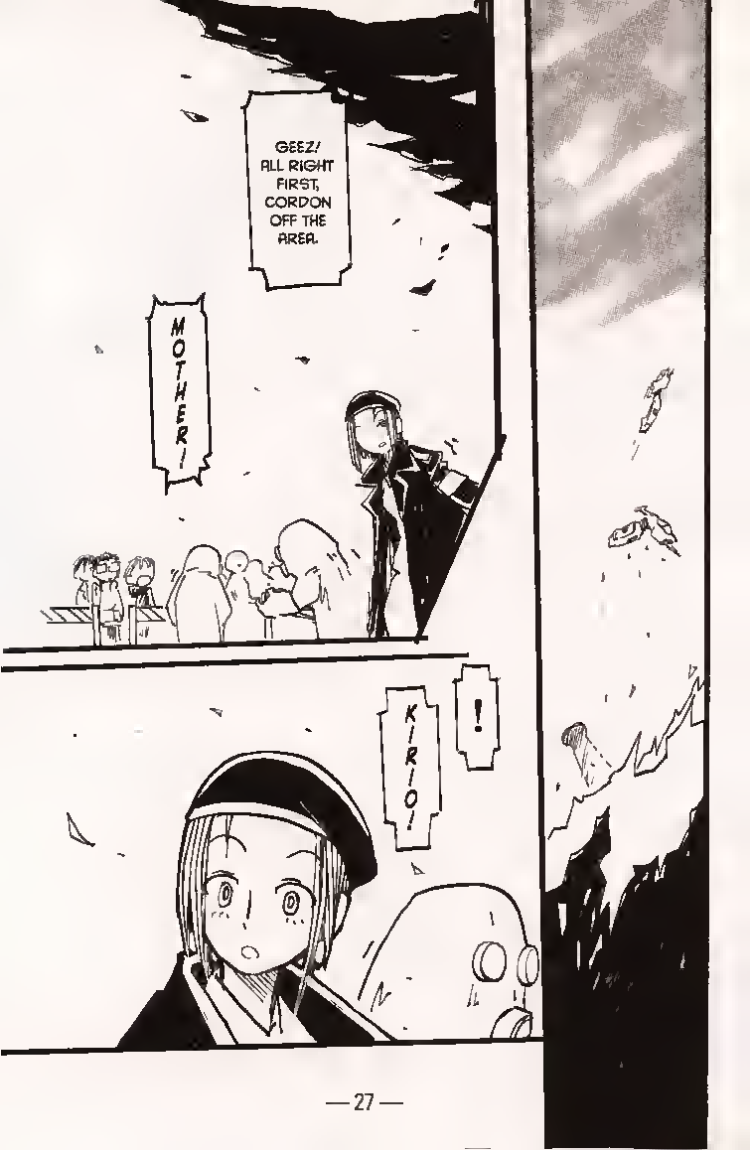


KASHAN
WHAT'D YOU EXPECT?
IT'S LOOKING THIS WAY
WHAT'S WITH YOU!!!
IT'S COMING TOWARD US! MAYBE WE SHOULD RUN!
DON'T YOU THINK AT ALL?!!
WHOOOO OO
WRRR!!

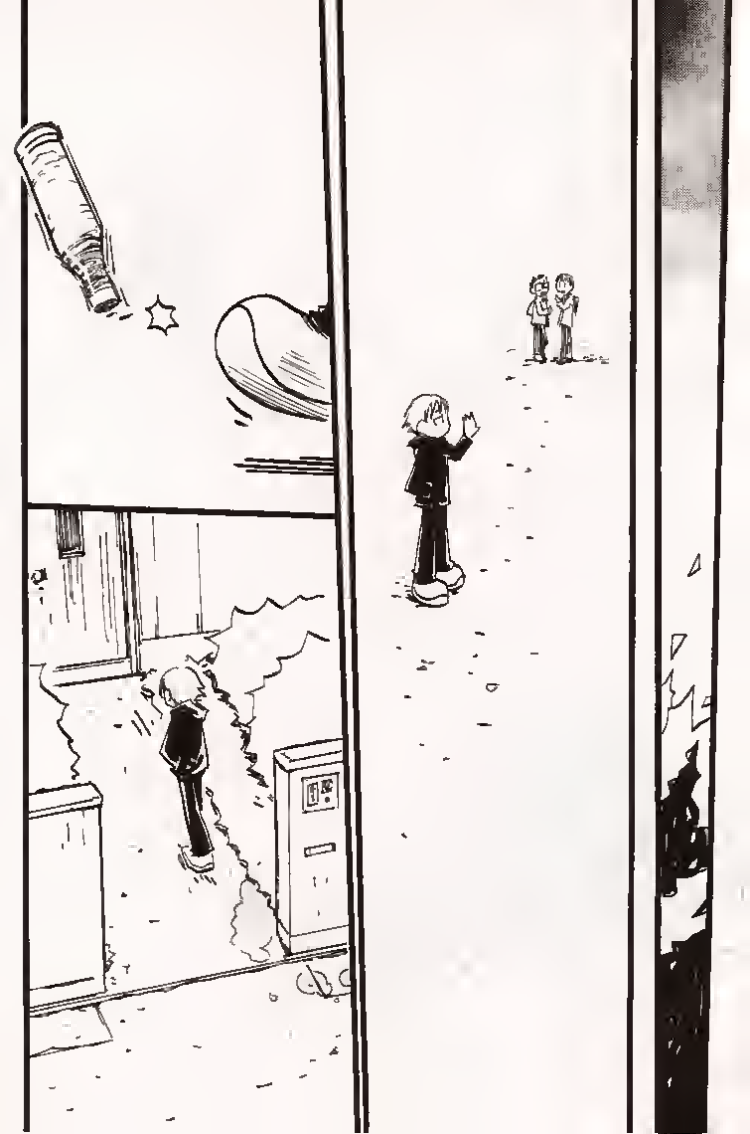
UWAHH

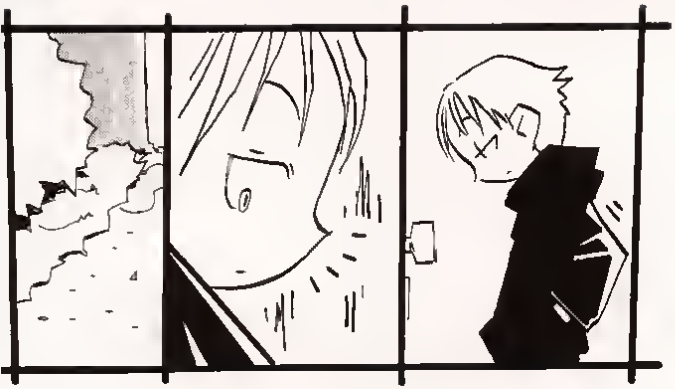

AFTER IT!
THE 20MM DIDN'T PHASE IT!
I'D LOVE TO BUT
AH TESTING! TESTING!
THE ORDER TO FIRE WAS A MISTAKE!
ALL AIRBORNE UNITS MUST WITHDRAW AT ONCE!

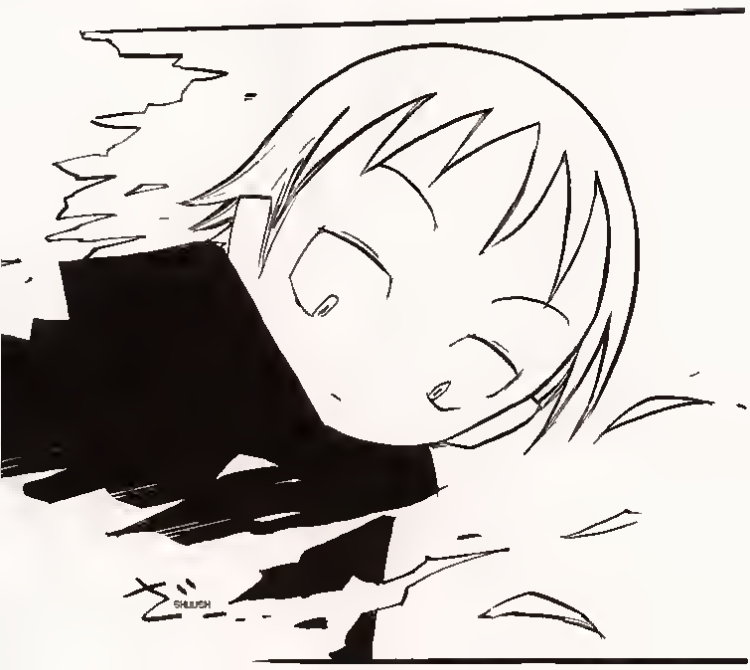
SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT BLACK HARE!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
THIS ISLAND IS UNDER OUR JURISDICTION! WITHDRAW YOUR FORCES!
BLACK HARE?!
DO YOU THINK SOME PETTY POLITICIAN'S BODYGUARD GROUP HAS INFLUENCE OVER MAINLAND FORCES?!
WE'RE THE LOCAL AIR FORCE! IF ANYBODY HAS JURISDICTION IT'S US!
GRR
DEFYING MY ORDERS? CAN'T YOU SEND THEM PACKING?
THE WITHDRAWAL ORDER SHOULD BE COMING... ..THERE IT IS

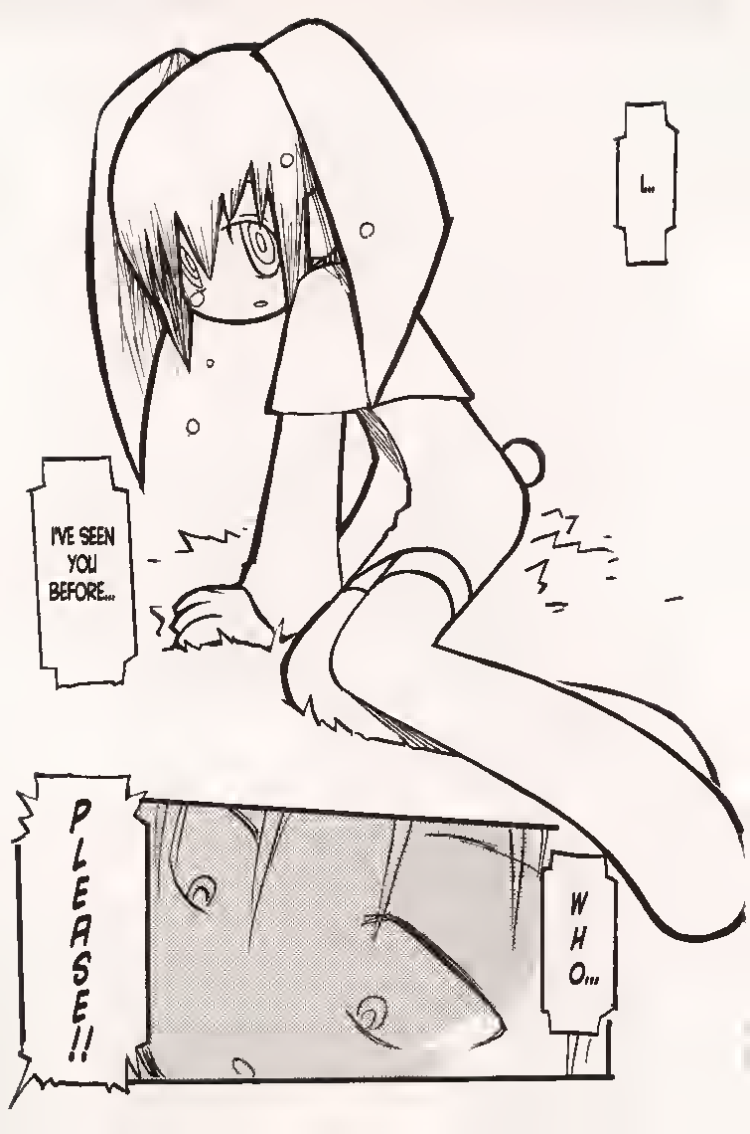

GEEZ! ALL RIGHT FIRST, CORDON OFF THE AREA.
MOTHER!
KIRIO!
!

WHERE'S YOUR SISTER?
I DON'T KNOW.
PROBABLY IN THE LIBRARY.
IF ONLY WE COULD GET PERMISSION TO HAVE MOBILE PHONES AGAIN, IT'D BE SO EASY TO STAY IN CONTACT
KIRIO, BE SURE TO GO TO FURIKO AND WALK HER HOME
OKAY?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT DRESSED THAT WAY?
NOTHING TO SEE HERE.







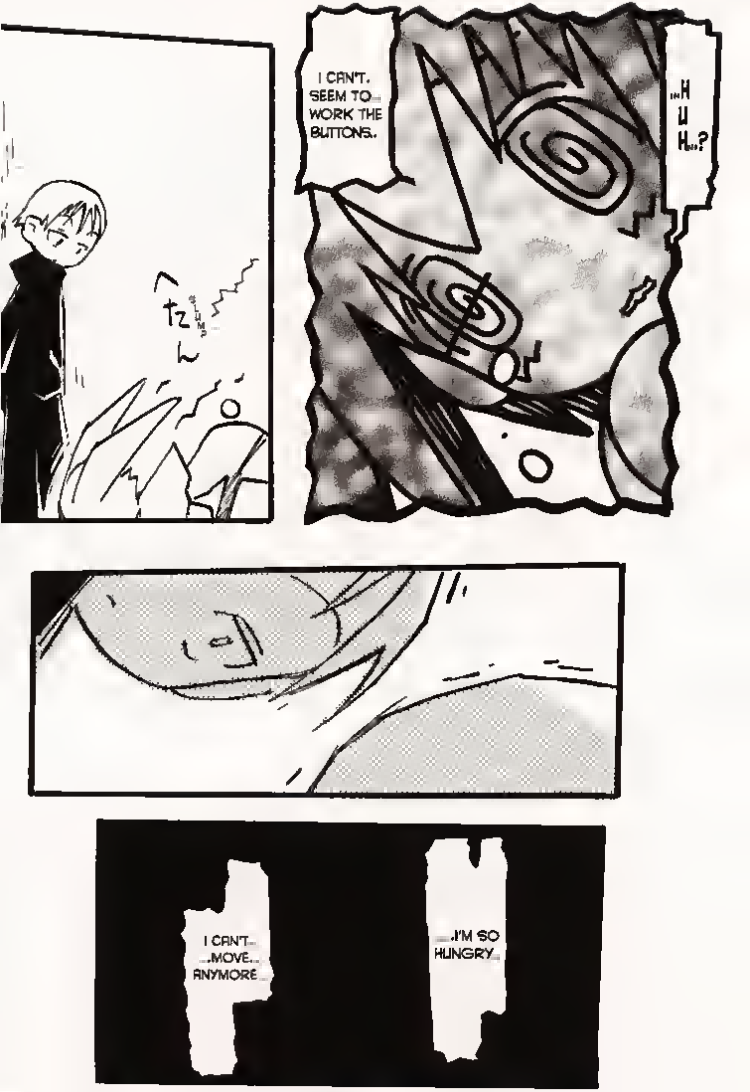

I...
I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE...
WHO...
PLEASE!!

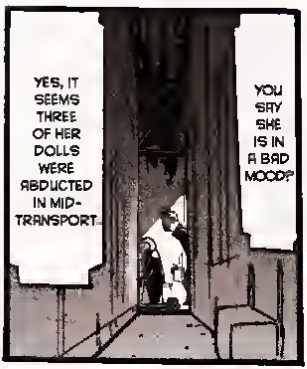
PLEASE PILOT ME! PILOT ME RIGHT!

#2

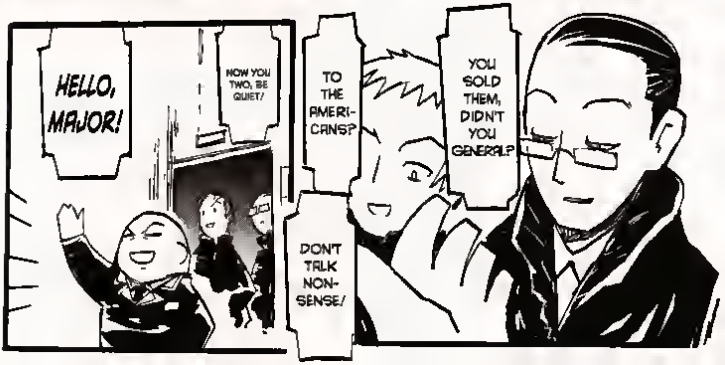
...PILOT...?

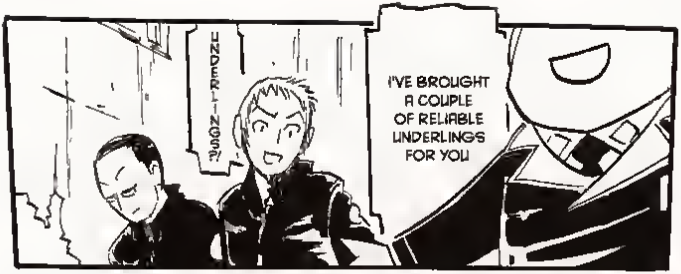
UH...
I, UM...
YES..
...UM...
I WANT YOU TO BOARD ME!!
BOARD YOU...?
PLEASE BOARD ME!
I-I'LL EXPLAIN MORE FULLY.
WAIT A MOMENT.
I'LL TAKE MY CLOTHES OFF AND

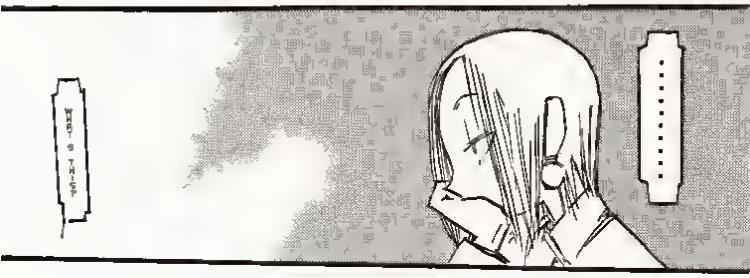

I CAN'T SEEM TO... WORK THE BUTTONS.
...HUH...?
I CAN'T... ...MOVE... ANYMORE...
...I'M SO HUNGRY...

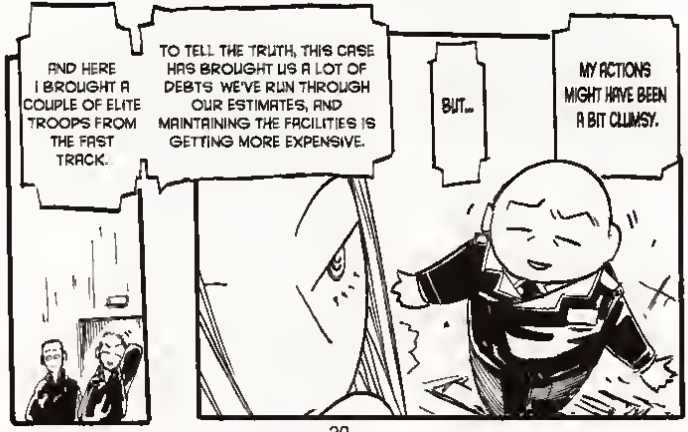

YES, IT SEEMS THREE OF HER DOLLS WERE ABDUCTED IN MID-TRANSPORT.
YOU SAY SHE IS IN A BAD MOOD?

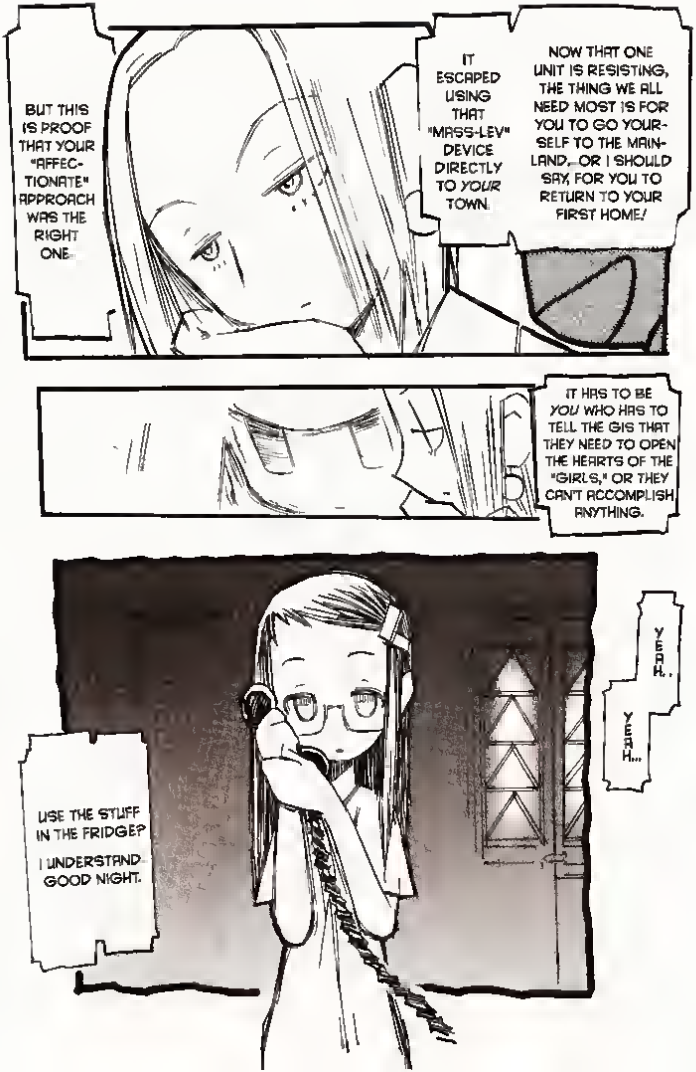
HUH? GENERAL! YOU'RE LOOKING SPIFFY TODAY.
OH! AKAZA, OZU, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. THIS IS THE RIGHT UNIFORM FOR INSIDE THE BASE.


HELLO, MAJOR!
NOW YOU TWO, BE QUIET!
TO THE AMERICANS?
DON'T TALK NONSENSE!
YOU SOLD THEM, DIDN'T YOU GENERAL?

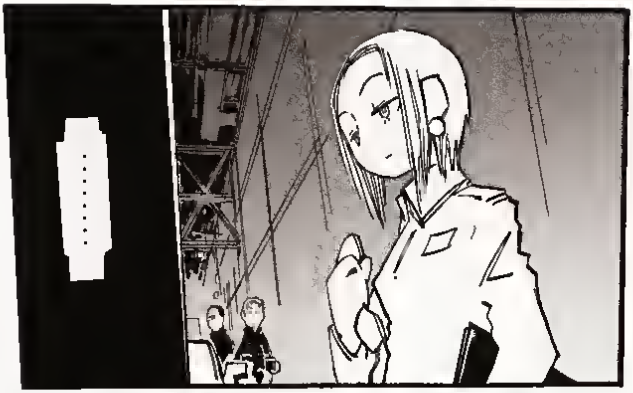

UNDERLINGS?!
I'VE BROUGHT A COUPLE OF RELIABLE UNDERLINGS FOR YOU

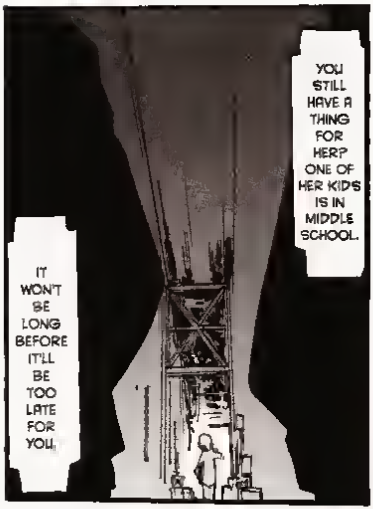

WHAT'S THIS?
.....

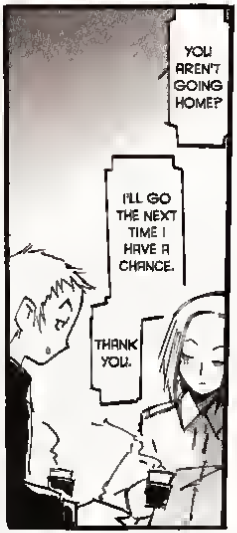

AND HERE I BROUGHT A COUPLE OF ELITE TROOPS FROM THE FAST TRACK.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, THIS CASE HAS BROUGHT US A LOT OF DEBTS. WE'VE RUN THROUGH OUR ESTIMATES, AND MAINTAINING THE FACILITIES IS GETTING MORE EXPENSIVE.
BUT...
MY ACTIONS MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT CLUMSY.

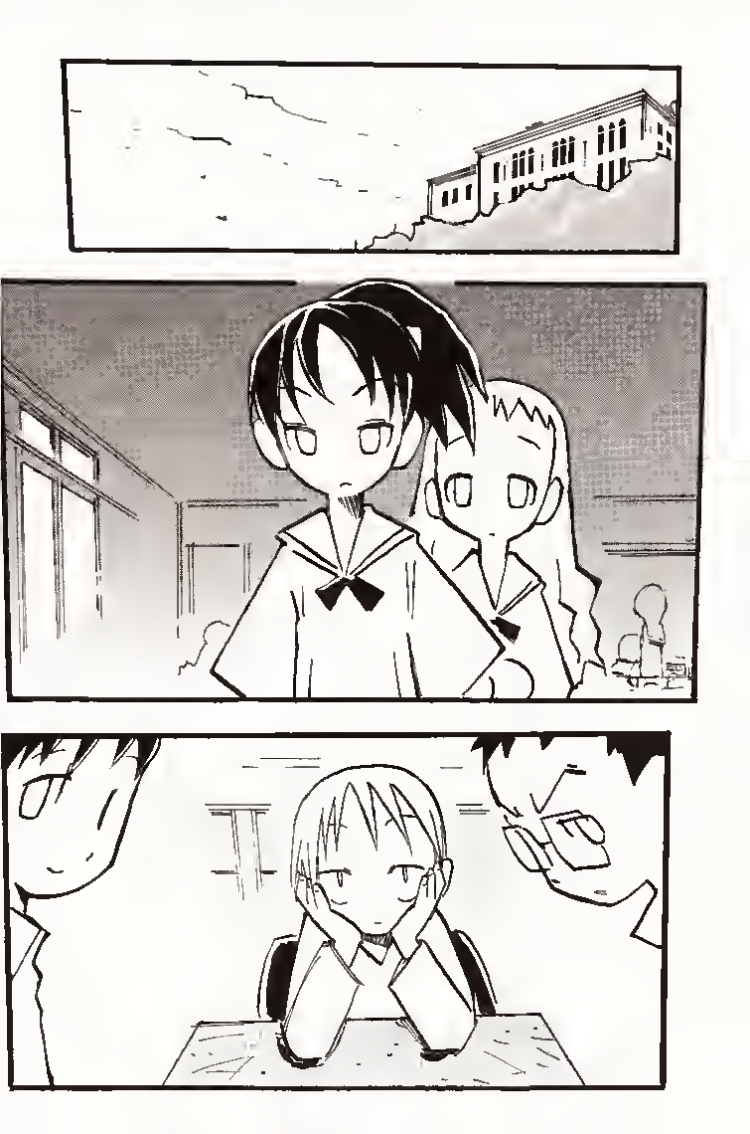

BUT THIS IS PROOF THAT YOUR "AFFECTIONATE" APPROACH WAS THE RIGHT ONE.
IT ESCAPED USING THAT "MASS-LEV" DEVICE DIRECTLY TO *YOUR* TOWN.
NOW THAT ONE UNIT IS RESISTING, THE THING WE ALL NEED MOST IS FOR YOU TO GO YOURSELF TO THE MAINLAND... OR I SHOULD SAY, FOR YOU TO RETURN TO YOUR FIRST HOME!
IT HAS TO BE *YOU* WHO HAS TO TELL THE GIS THAT THEY NEED TO OPEN THE HEARTS OF THE "GIRLS," OR THEY CAN'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING.
YEAH... YEAH...
USE THE STUFF IN THE FRIDGE?
I UNDERSTAND. GOOD NIGHT.

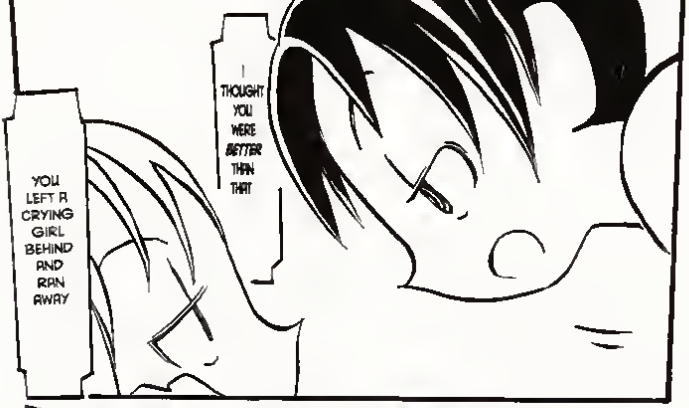
SHE WANTS US TO COOK SOME-THING
CHIRP
I ALREADY ATE.
SHI TUNK

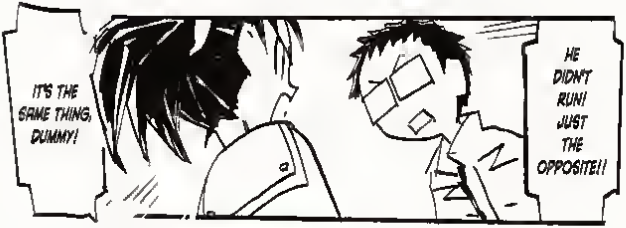

.....

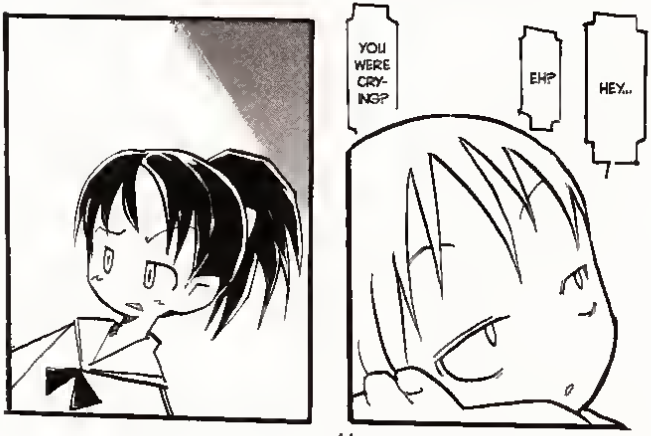

YOU STILL HAVE A THING FOR HER? ONE OF HER KID'S IS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE IT'LL BE TOO LATE FOR YOU.

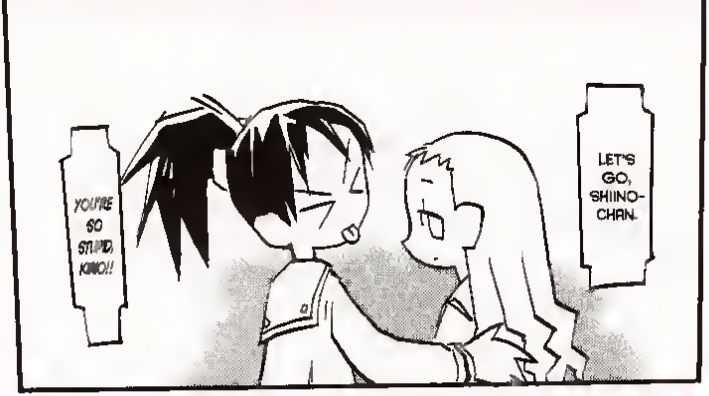

YOU AREN'T GOING HOME?
I'LL GO THE NEXT TIME I HAVE A CHANCE.
THANK YOU.

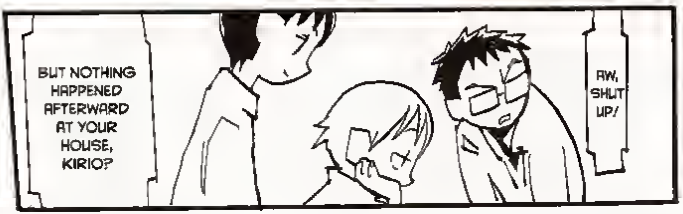



I THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER THAN THAT
YOU LEFT A CRYING GIRL BEHIND AND RAN AWAY


IT'S THE SAME THING, DUMMY!
HE DIDN'T RUN! JUST THE OPPOSITE!!


YOU WERE CRY-ING?
EH?
HEY..


YOU'RE SO STUPID, KIRIO!!
LET'S GO, SHIINO-CHAN.


BUT NOTHING HAPPENED AFTERWARD AT YOUR HOUSE, KIRIO?
AW, SHUT UP!

YOU GUYS WANT TO COME TO MY PLACE TODAY?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
.....

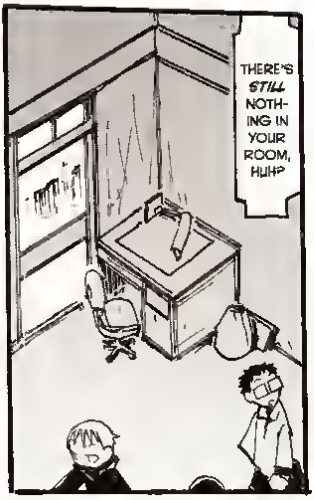
NO SMOKING!!

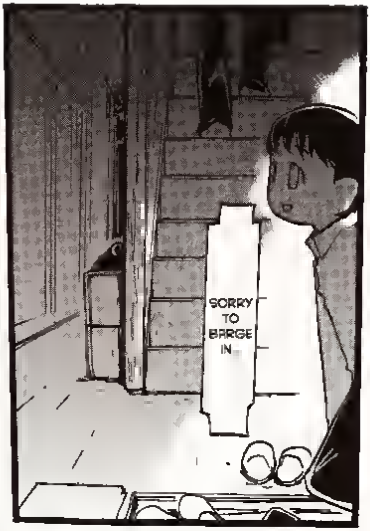
THREE OF THEM
THEY'VE RELEASED SOME SPACE ALIENS THEY'VE CAPTURED.
GENERAL. IT LOOKS LIKE THE AMERICAN FORCES ARE ON THE MOVE.

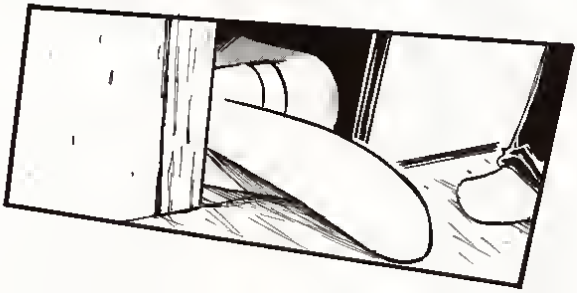
Don't shoot!
What? Big thoughts? Yes, sir! Um..
It looks like a jellyfish or – something that I saw on a Japanese TV show.

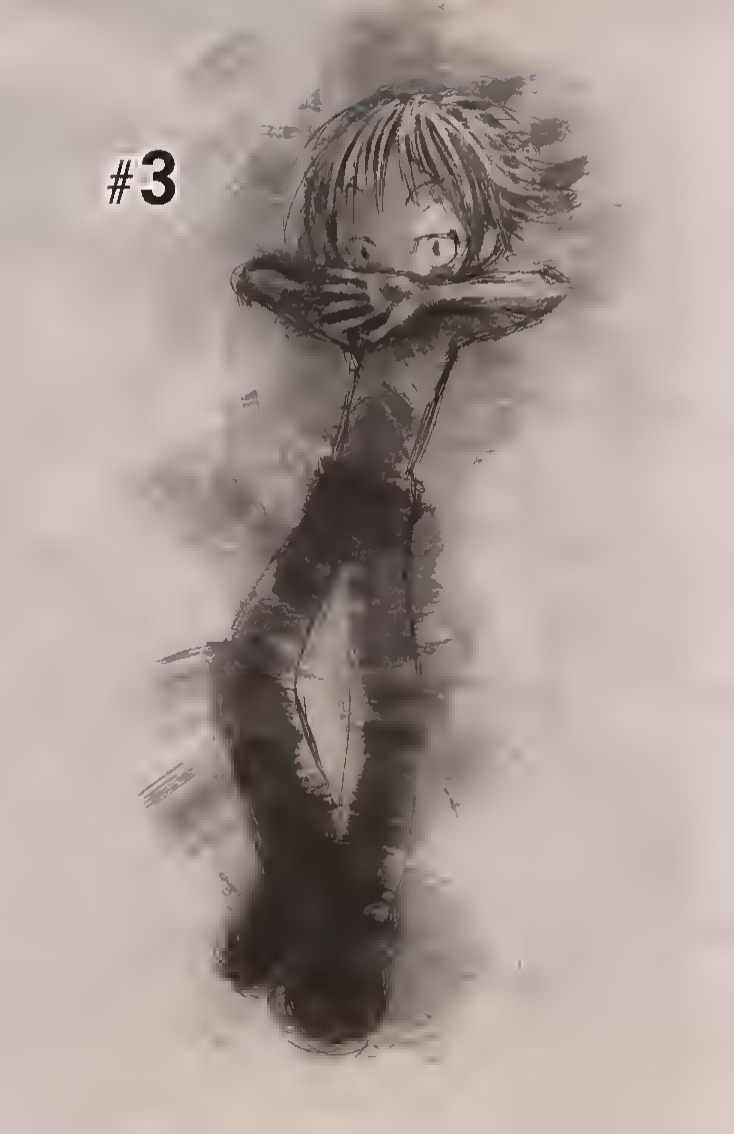
ZP-
PLOOSH

PE-BHN!

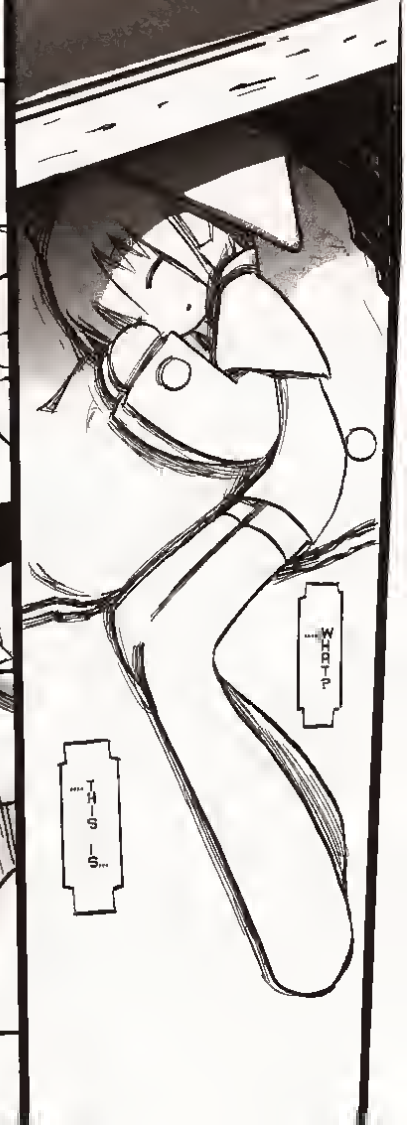

THERE'S *STILL* NOTHING IN YOUR ROOM, HUH?

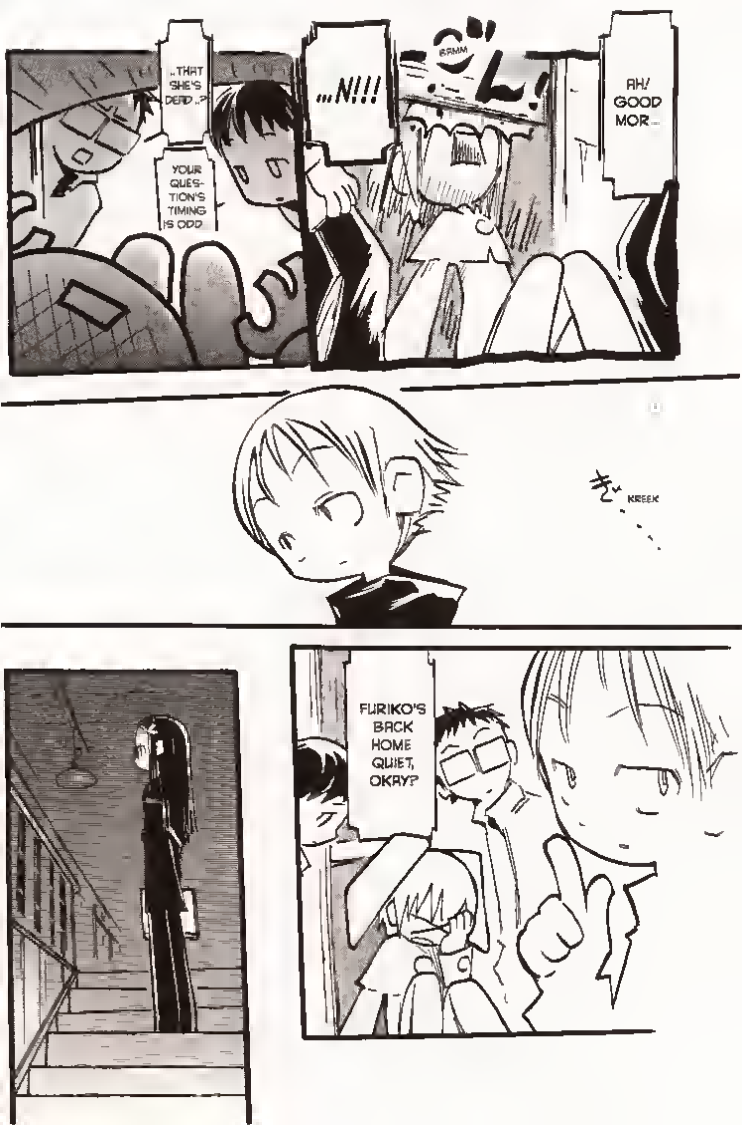

SORRY TO BARGE IN

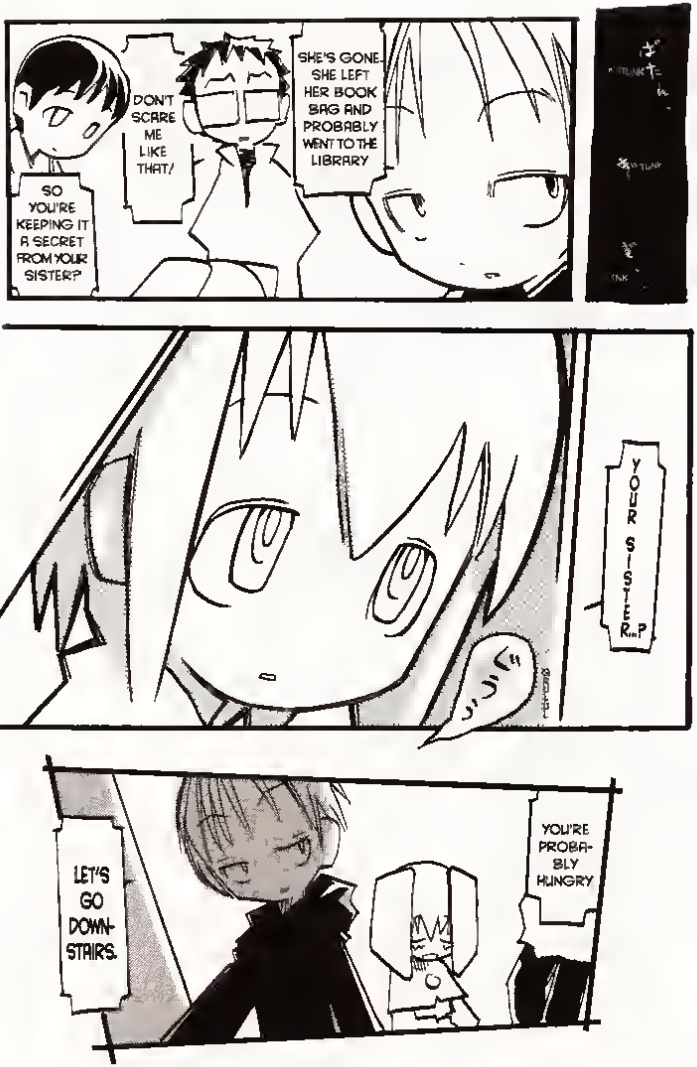



#3

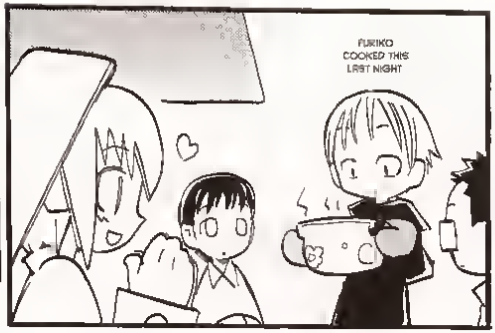
SHE WAS JUST OUTSIDE MY HOME YESTERDAY, AND FAINTED BECAUSE SHE WAS HUNGRY.
THAT MEANS...
SHE HAS A SMALL MOUTH.
YOU'RE KIDDING! THEN...


...WHAT?
...THIS IS...

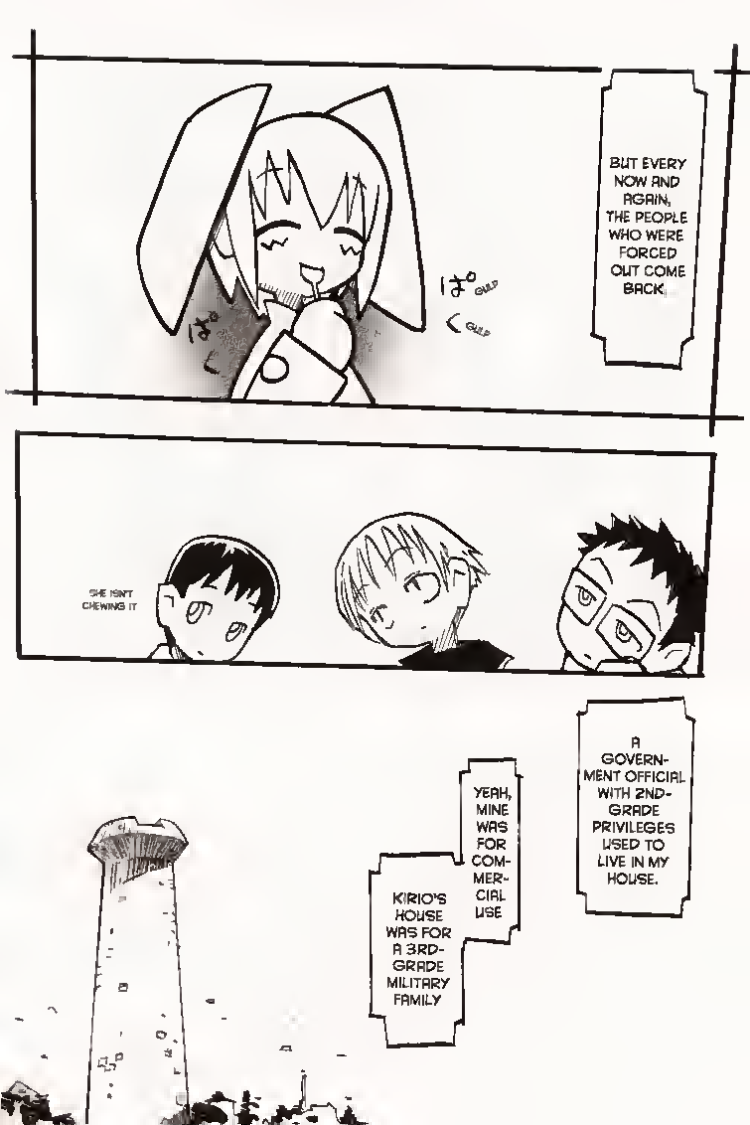

...THAT SHE'S DEAD...?
YOUR QUESTION'S TIMING IS ODD.
...N!!!
BRMM
AH! GOOD MOR...
KREEK
FURIKO'S BACK HOME QUIET, OKAY?

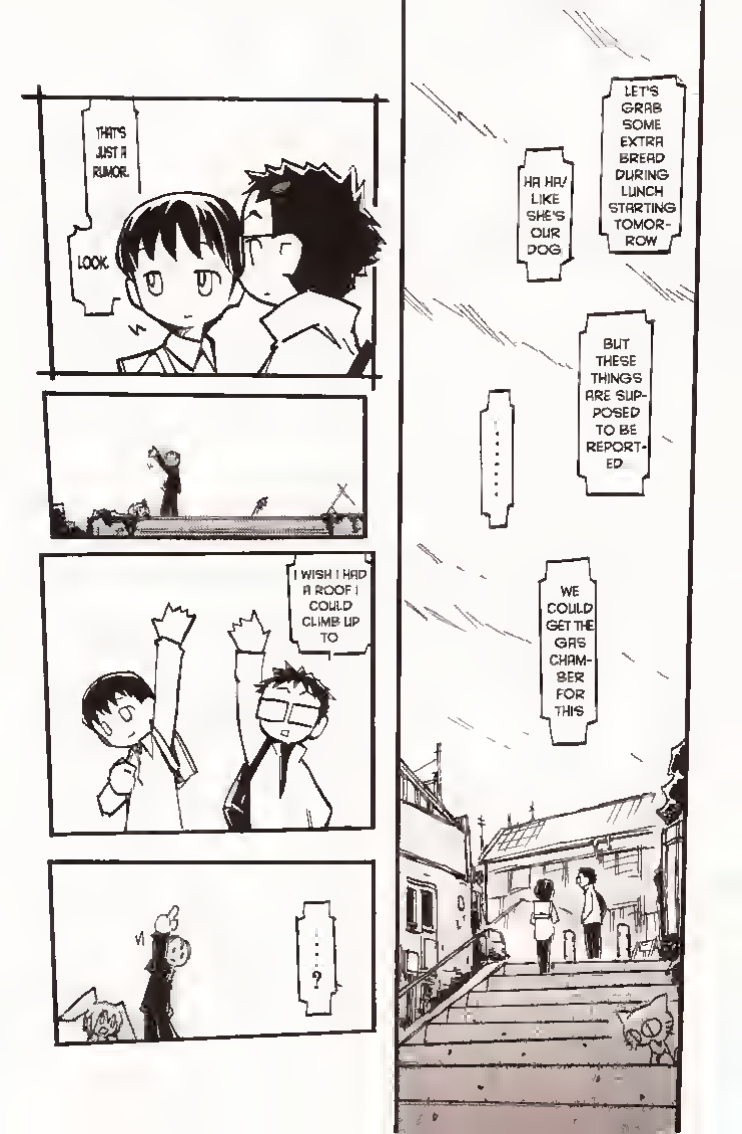

SO YOU'RE KEEPING IT A SECRET FROM YOUR SISTER?
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT/
SHE'S GONE. SHE LEFT HER BOOK BAG AND PROBABLY WENT TO THE LIBRARY
YOUR SISTER...P
LET'S GO DOWN-STAIRS.
YOU'RE PROBA-BLY HUNGRY

THEY CHASED THE PEOPLE OUT WITH "FORCED DISPERSAL."



THESE 13 SPECIAL WARDS, BACK BEFORE THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT TOWERS, WAS A LAND WITH A DIFFERENT NAME, AND A DIFFERENT RACE OF PEOPLE WERE LIVING HERE.

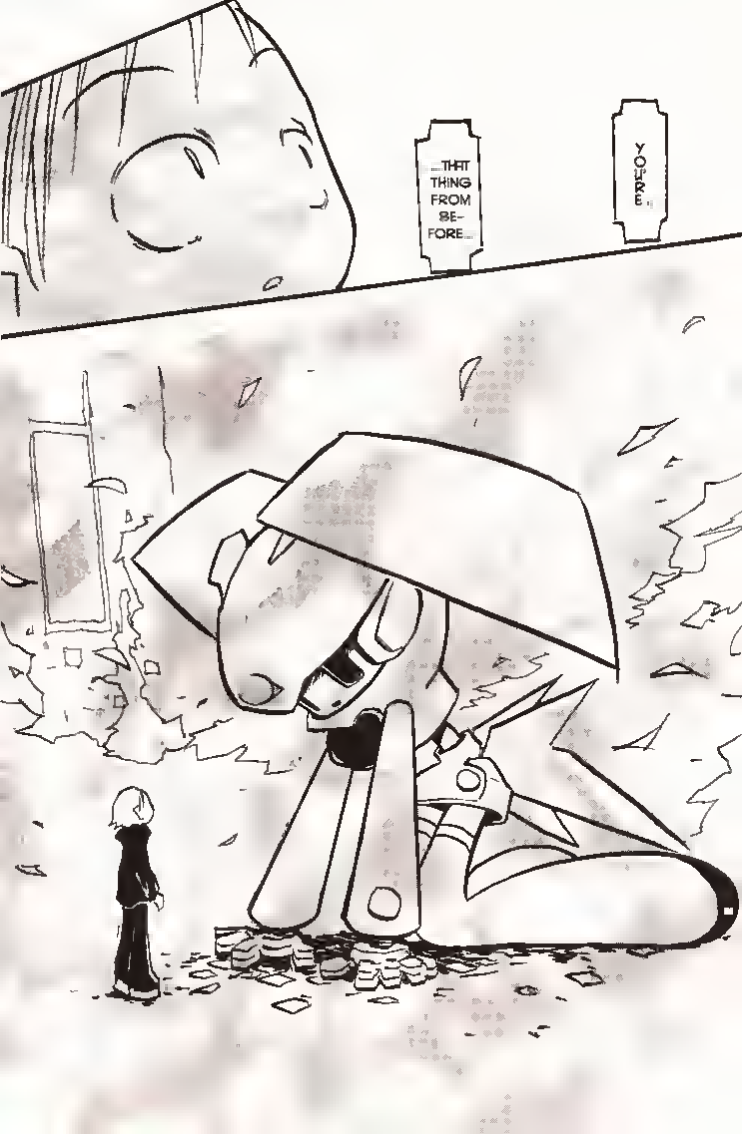

BUT EVERY NOW AND AGAIN, THE PEOPLE WHO WERE FORCED OUT COME BACK.
はぁ GULP
くGULP
はぁ
SHE ISN'T CHEWING IT
A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WITH 2ND-GRADE PRIVILEGES USED TO LIVE IN MY HOUSE.
YEAH, MINE WAS FOR COMMERCIAL USE
KIRIO'S HOUSE WAS FOR A 3RD-GRADE MILITARY FAMILY

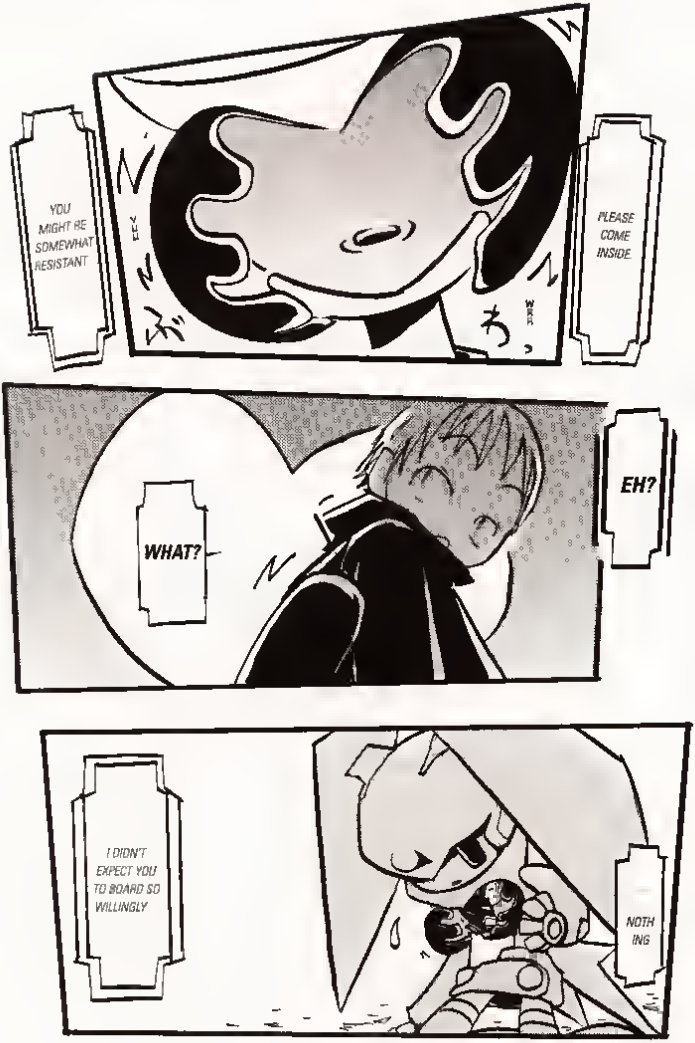

LET'S GRAB SOME EXTRA BREAD DURING LUNCH STARTING TOMOR-ROW
HA HA/ LIKE SHE'S OUR DOG
BUT THESE THINGS ARE SUP-POSED TO BE REPORT-ED
.....
WE COULD GET THE GAS CHAM-BER FOR THIS
THAT'S JUST A RUMOR.
LOOK.
I WISH I HAD A ROOF I COULD CLIMB UP TO
.....?

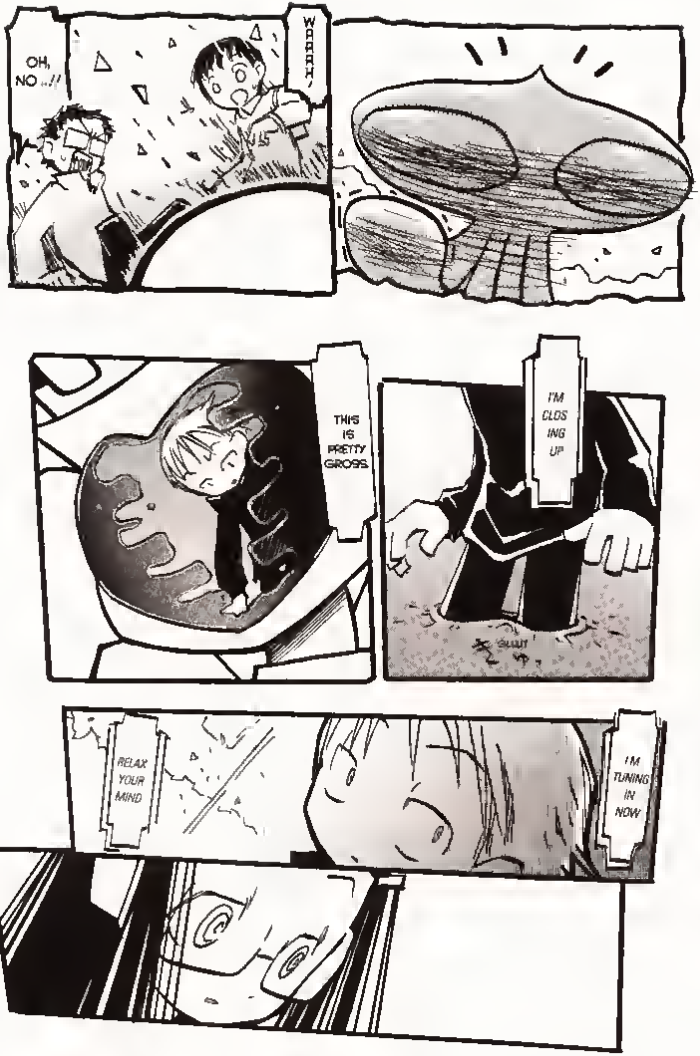
WAAA!!
OH MY GOD!!!

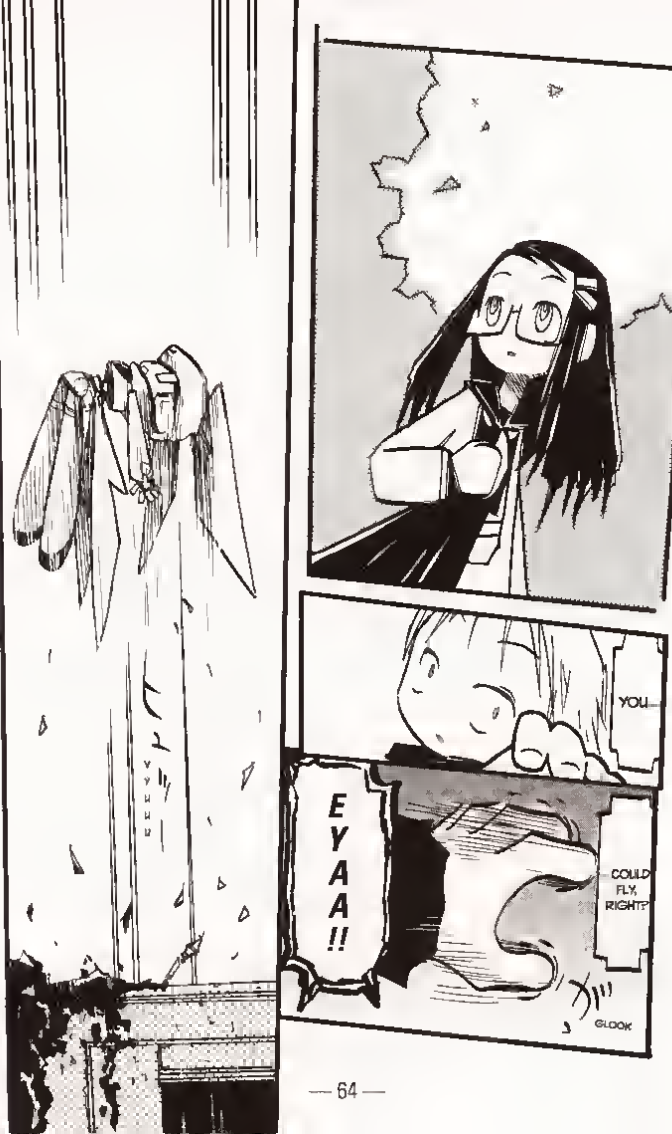
WAAAAH!
WHAT THE HELL?!?
KIRIO-SAN!
I NEED TO BORROW YOUR NERVES!
EVEN IF I WERE PREPARED FOR *THAT*, IF I WERE TO TRY THIS ON MY OWN, I'D JUST RUN AND KEEP RUNNING!
I DON'T KNOW IF THEY CAN SURVIVE THAT!

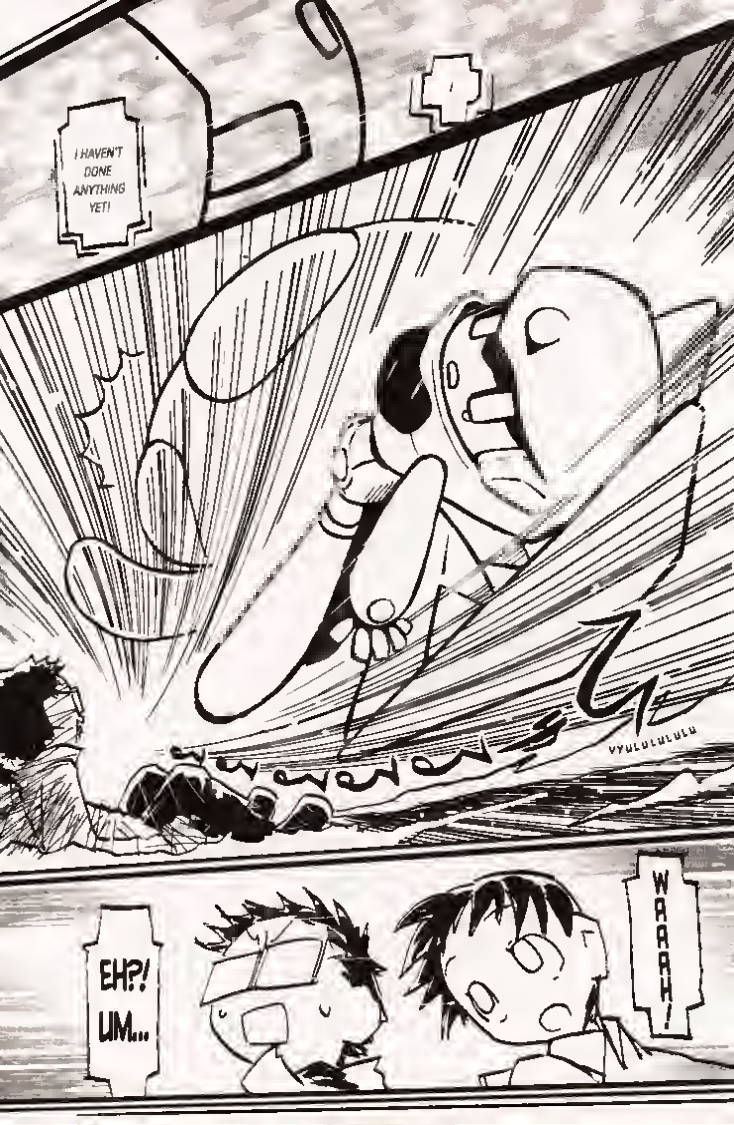
I AM A ROBOT
AND I'M BROKEN

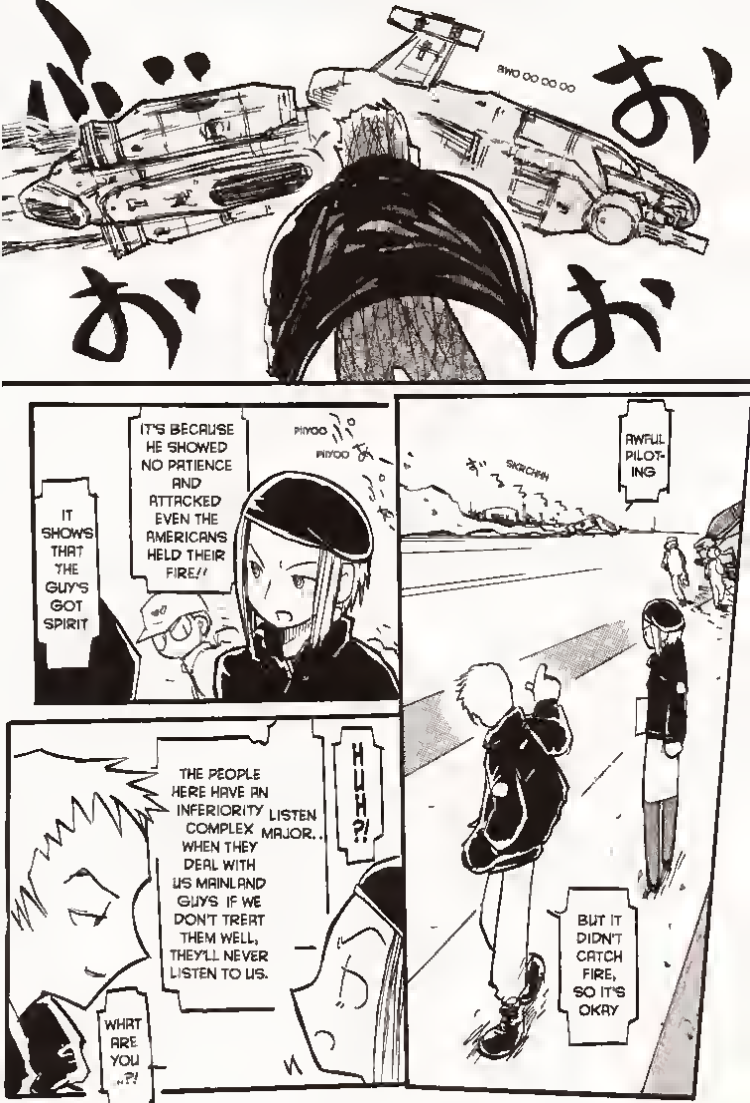

...THAT THING FROM BE-FORE...
YOU'RE...

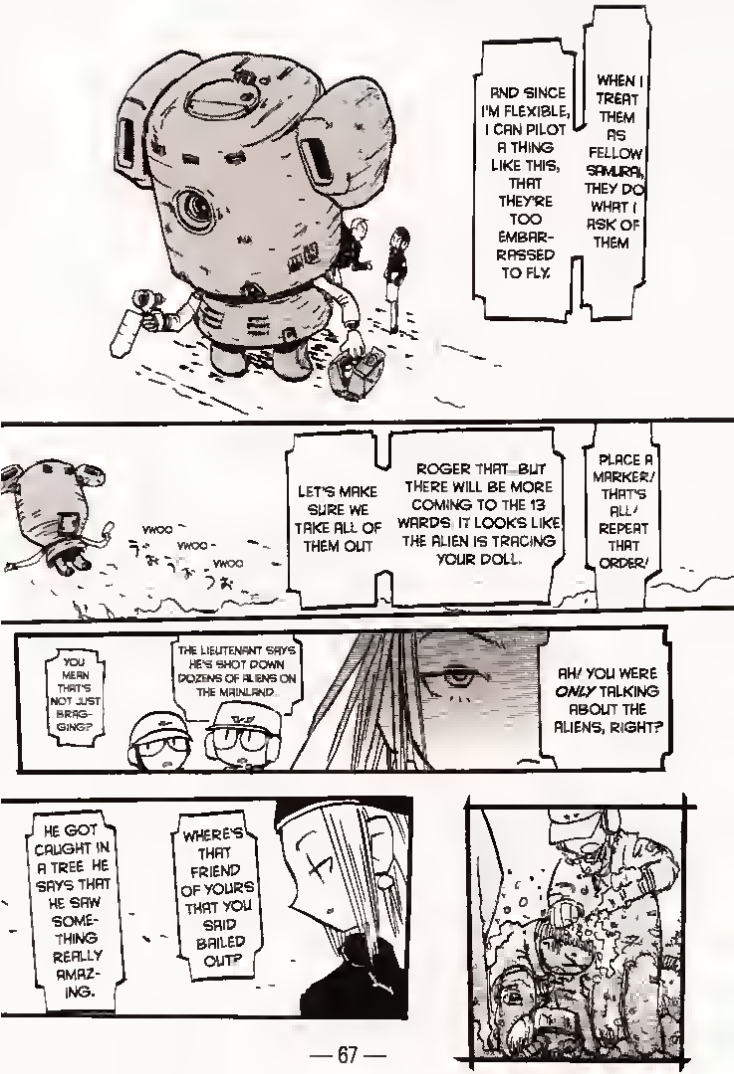

YOU MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT RESISTANT
PLEASE COME INSIDE
EH?
WHAT?
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BOARD SO WILLINGLY
NOTH ING


OH, NO...!!!
WHOOOSH
THIS IS PRETTY GROSS.
I'M CLOS ING UP
SLURP
RELAX YOUR MIND
I'M TUNING IN NOW

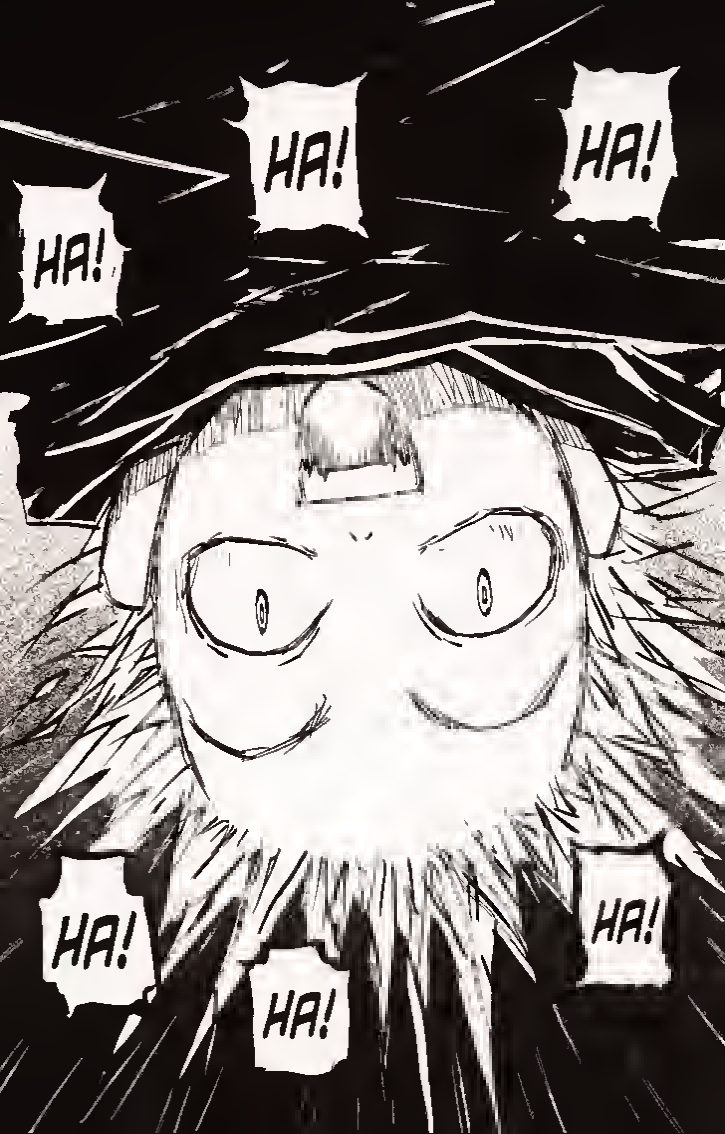

EEEYY
YOU...
EYAA!!
COULD FLY, RIGHT?
GLOOK


I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET!
WAAAH!
EH?! UM...


おおおお

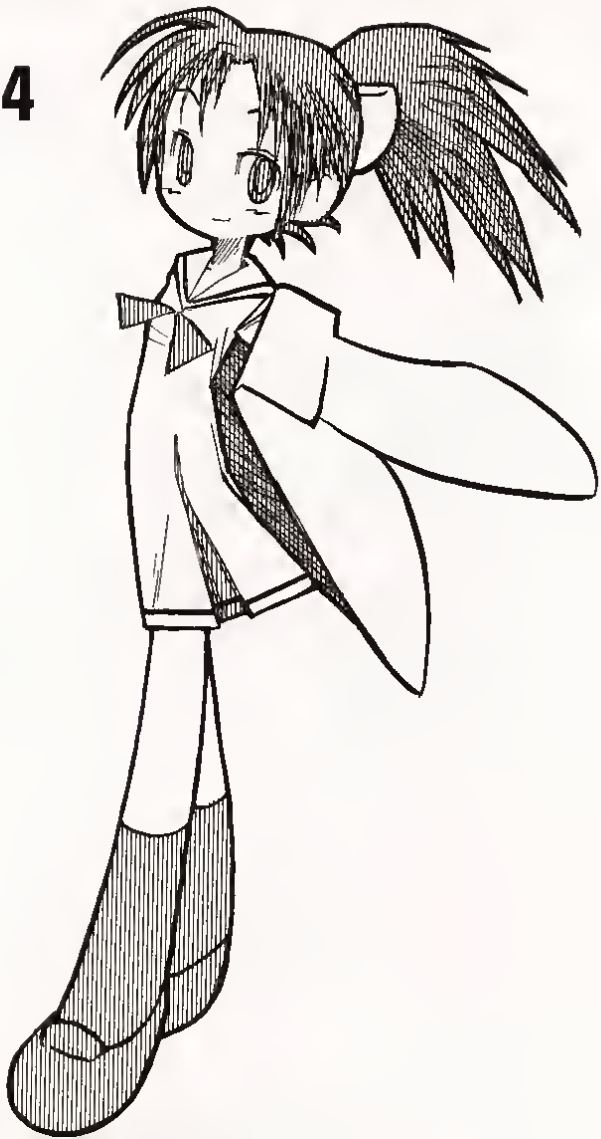

WHEN I TREAT THEM AS FELLOW SAMURAI, THEY DO WHAT I ASK OF THEM
AND SINCE I'M FLEXIBLE, I CAN PILOT A THING LIKE THIS, THAT THEY'RE TOO EMBARRASSED TO FLY.
PLACE A MARKER! THAT'S ALL! REPEAT THAT ORDER!
ROGER THAT. BUT THERE WILL BE MORE COMING TO THE 13 WARDS. IT LOOKS LIKE THE ALIEN IS TRACING YOUR DOLL.
LET'S MAKE SURE WE TAKE ALL OF THEM OUT
VWOO
VWOO
VWOO
AH! YOU WERE ONLY TALKING ABOUT THE ALIENS, RIGHT?
THE LIEUTENANT SAYS HE'S SHOT DOWN DOZENS OF ALIENS ON THE MAINLAND.
YOU MEAN THAT'S NOT JUST BRAGGING?
HE GOT CAUGHT IN A TREE. HE SAYS THAT HE SAW SOMETHING REALLY AMAZING.
WHERE'S THAT FRIEND OF YOURS THAT YOU SAID BAILED OUT?

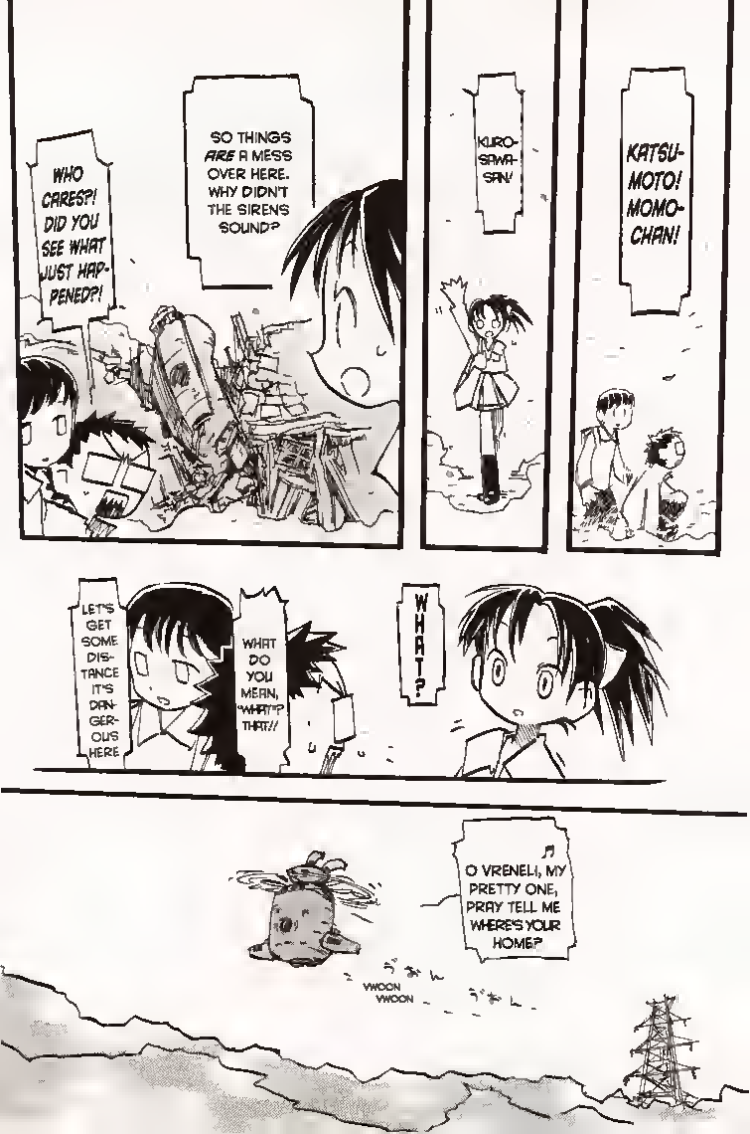
WE'RE FLY-ING..
.....
HHH..
HHH..
HHH..
HHH..
.....?


HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

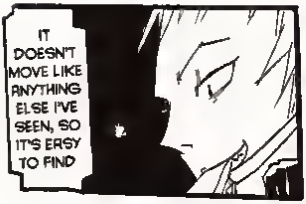
THIS IS FUN!
THIS IS REALLY FUN!!
?
KIRIO SAN?

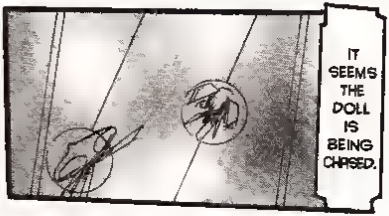
#4

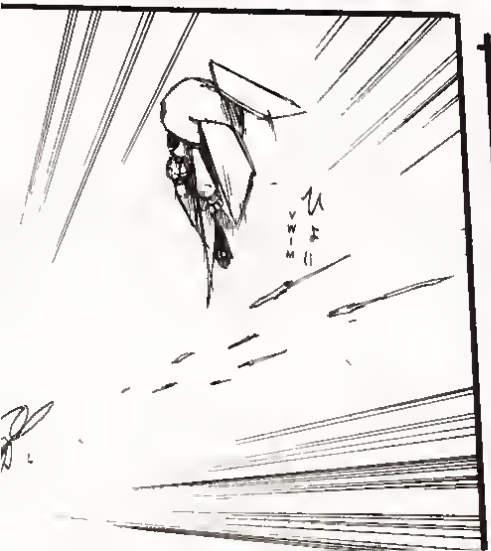


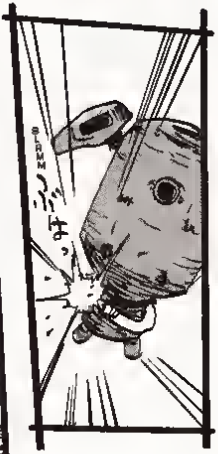

KATSU-MOTO! MOMO-CHAN!
KURO-SAWA-SAN!
SO THINGS *ARE* A MESS OVER HERE. WHY DIDN'T THE SIRENS SOUND?
WHO CARES?! DID YOU SEE WHAT JUST HAP-PENED?!
WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT"? THAT!!
LET'S GET SOME DIS-TANCE IT'S DAN-GER-OUS HERE
O VRENELI, MY PRETTY ONE, PRAY TELL ME WHERE'S YOUR HOME?
VWOON VWOON

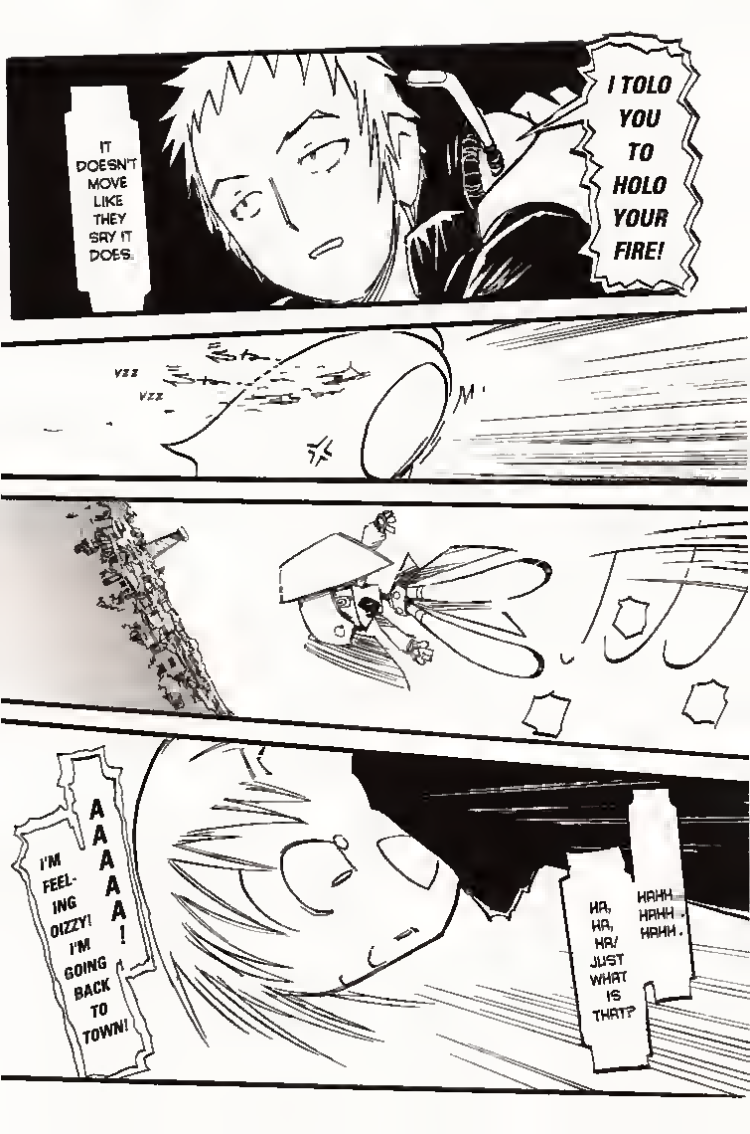
WHOAH.. THE "DIVINE MAIDEN'S ROBES" ENGINE IS MISALIGNED AND RIDING REALLY ROUGH.
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

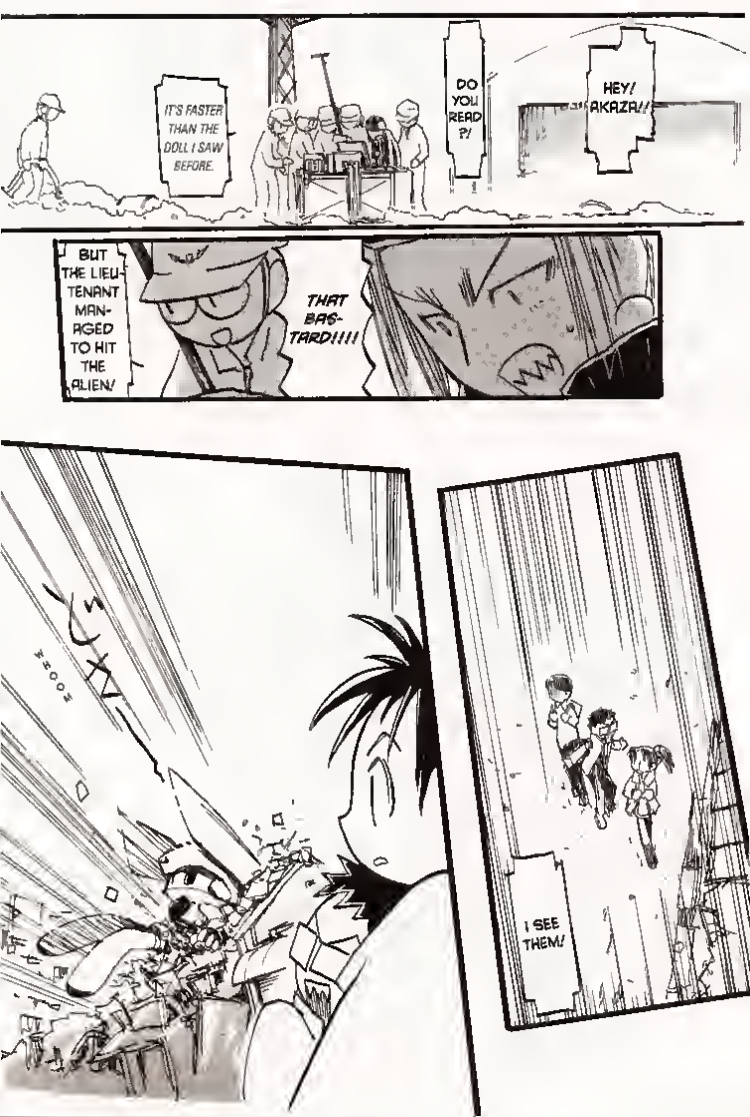

IT DOESN'T MOVE LIKE ANYTHING ELSE I'VE SEEN, SO IT'S EASY TO FIND


IT SEEMS THE DOLL IS BEING CHASED.

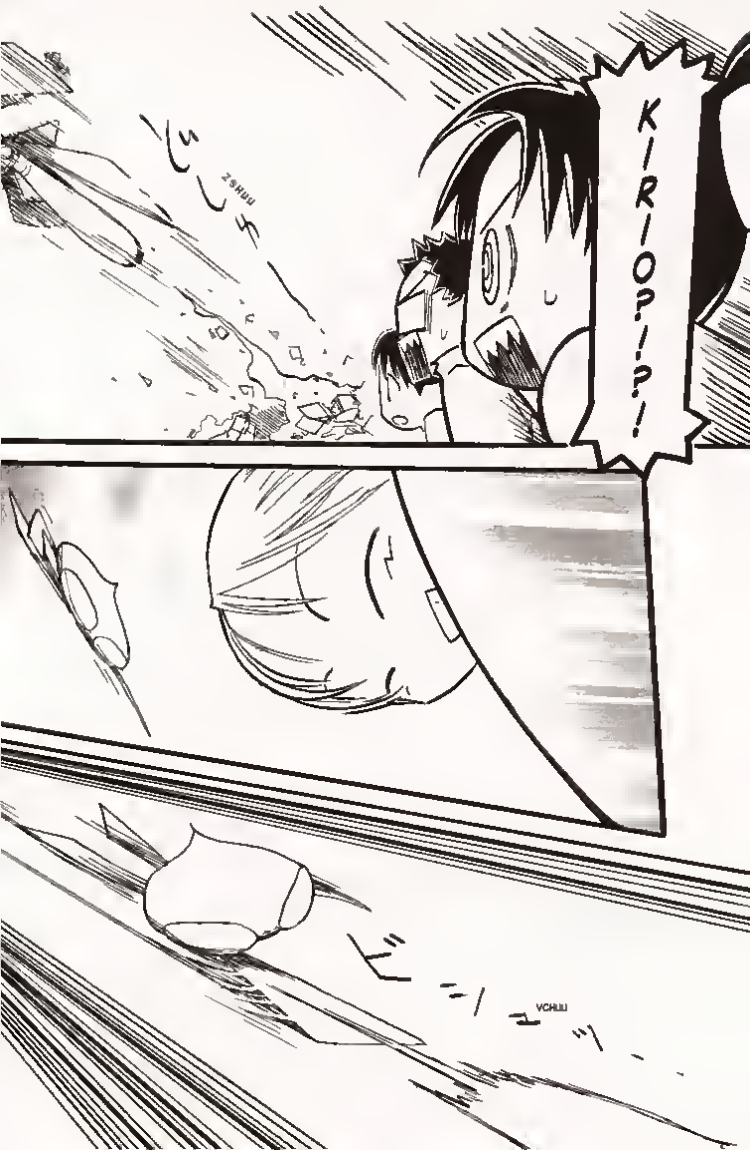

VWIM
ひょ

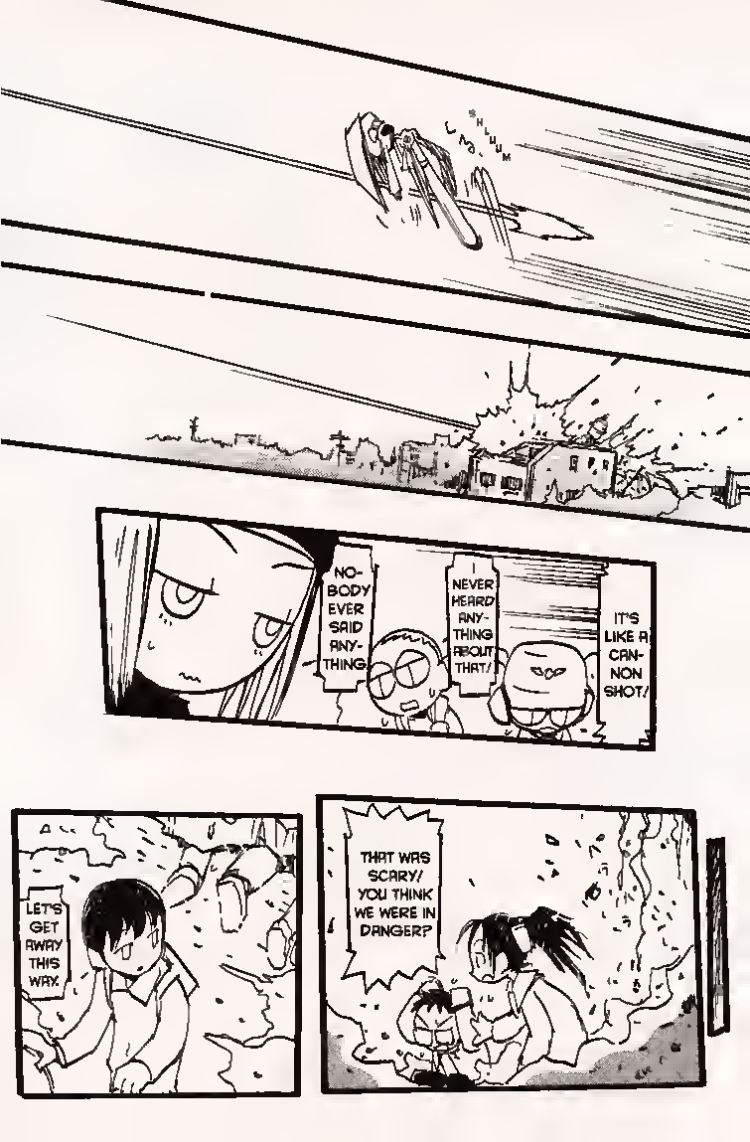

GRNM
ぎゅっ

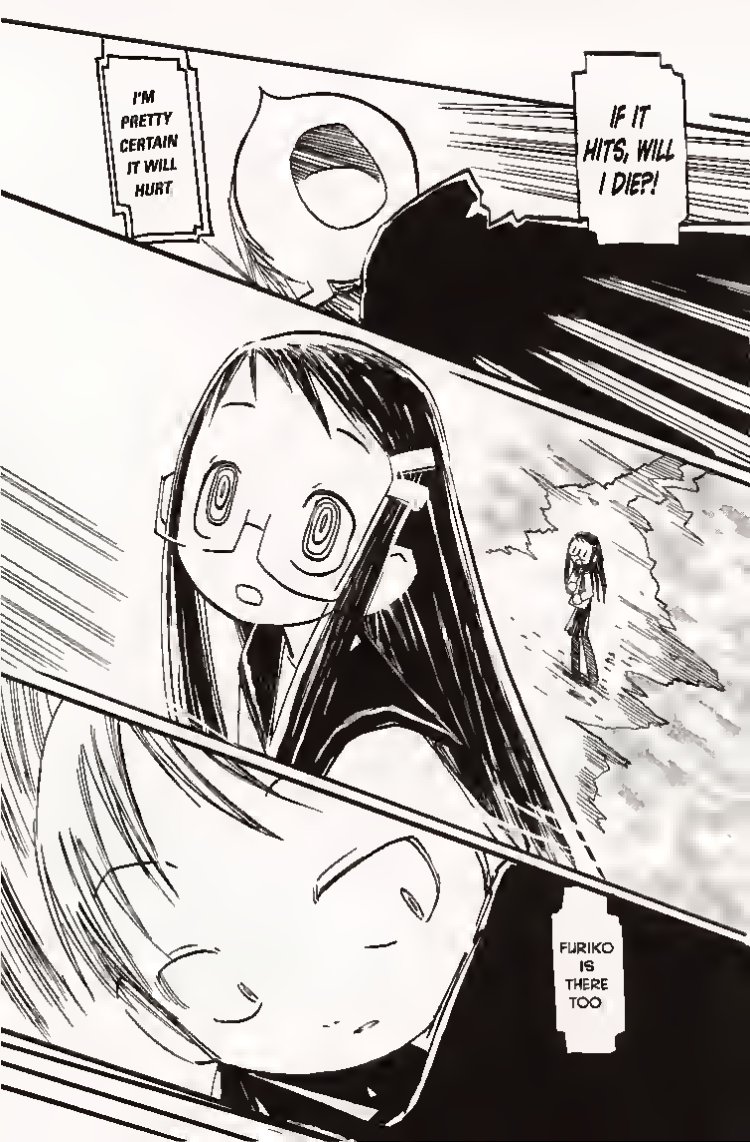

IT DOESN'T MOVE LIKE THEY SAY IT DOES.
I TOLO YOU TO HOLO YOUR FIRE!
VZZ
VZZ
M'
HA, HA, HA/ JUST WHAT IS THAT?
HAHH HAHH. HAHH.
I'M FEEL- ING DIZZY! I'M GOING BACK TO TOWN!
AAAAA!

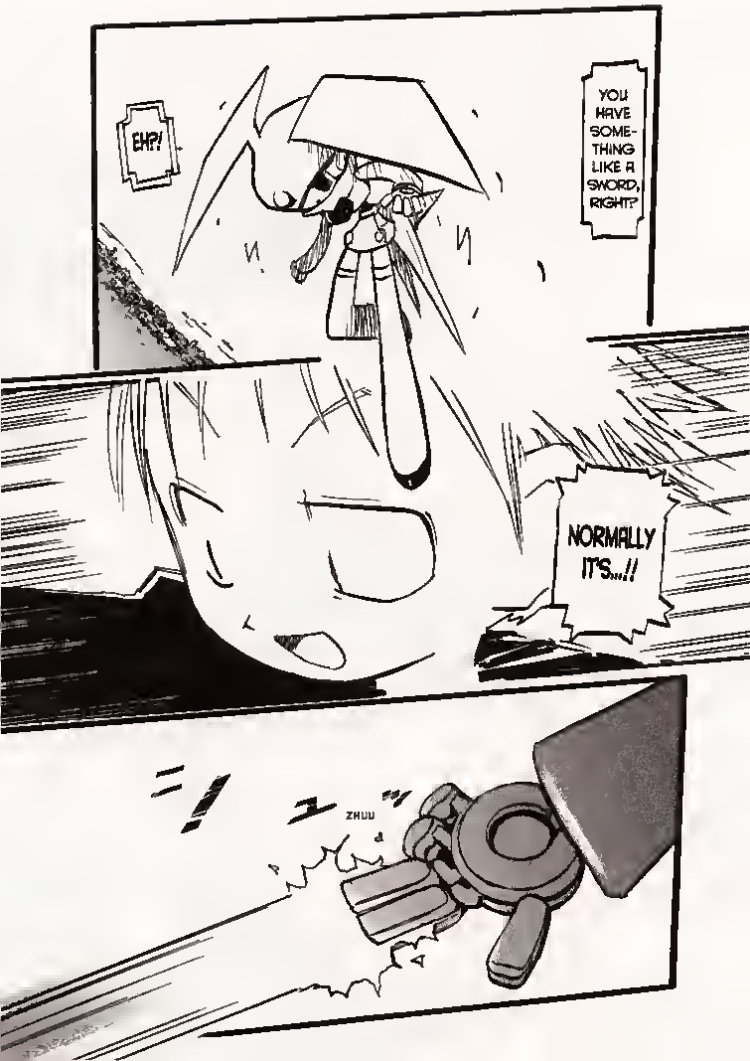

IT'S FASTER THAN THE DOLL I SAW BEFORE.
DO YOU READ?/
HEY! AKAZA!!
BUT THE LIEUTENANT MANAGED TO HIT THE ALIEN!
THAT BASTARD!!!!
I SEE THEM!

THAT'S WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT!!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!
EH?
OPEN UP!! OPEN THIS THING UP FOR A SEC-OND!!
EH?
MMMM...
GULUM

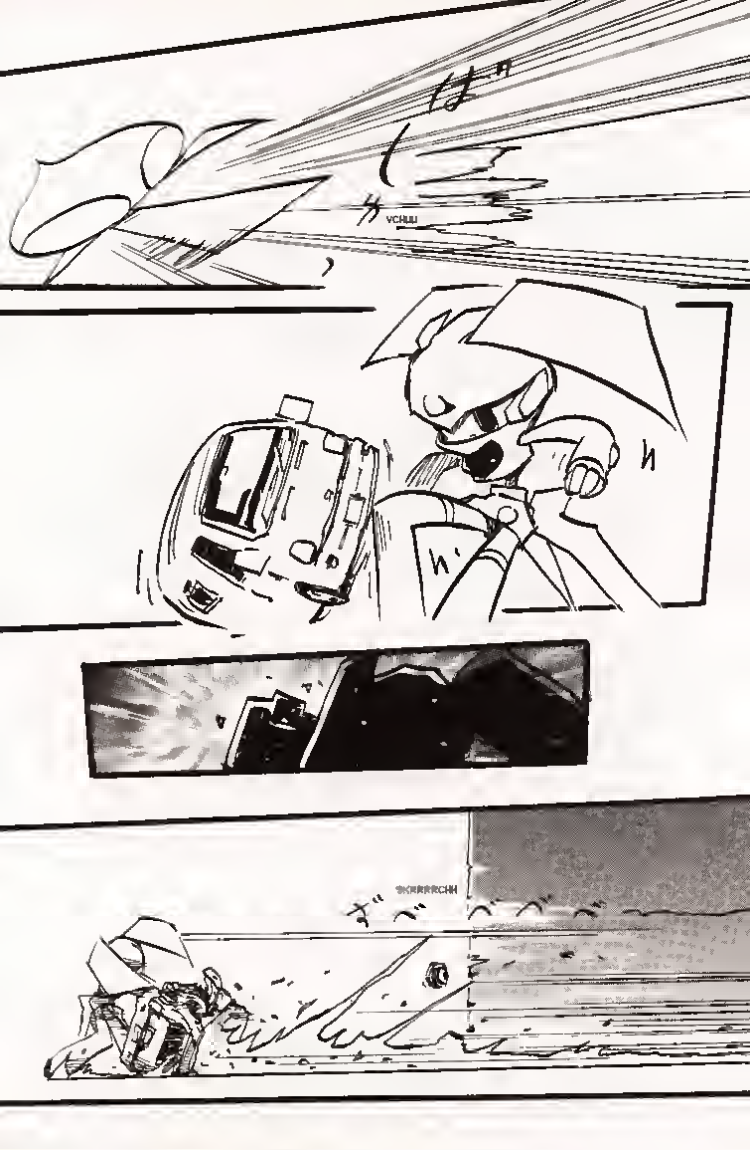

KIRIOP!!?!
ZSHUU
VCHUU

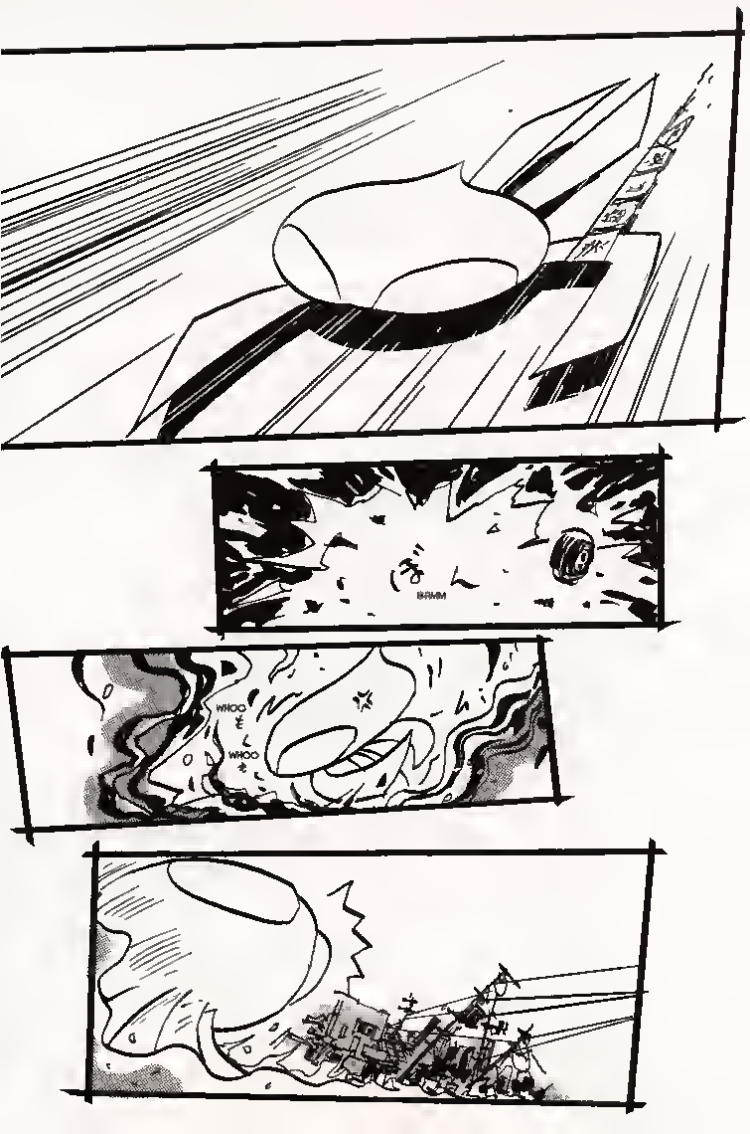

*HUUM
NO-BODY EVER SAID ANY-THING.
I NEVER HEARD ANY-THING ABOUT THAT/
IT'S LIKE A CAN-NON SHOT/
LET'S GET AWAY THIS WAY.
THAT WAS SCARY/ YOU THINK WE WERE IN DANGER?

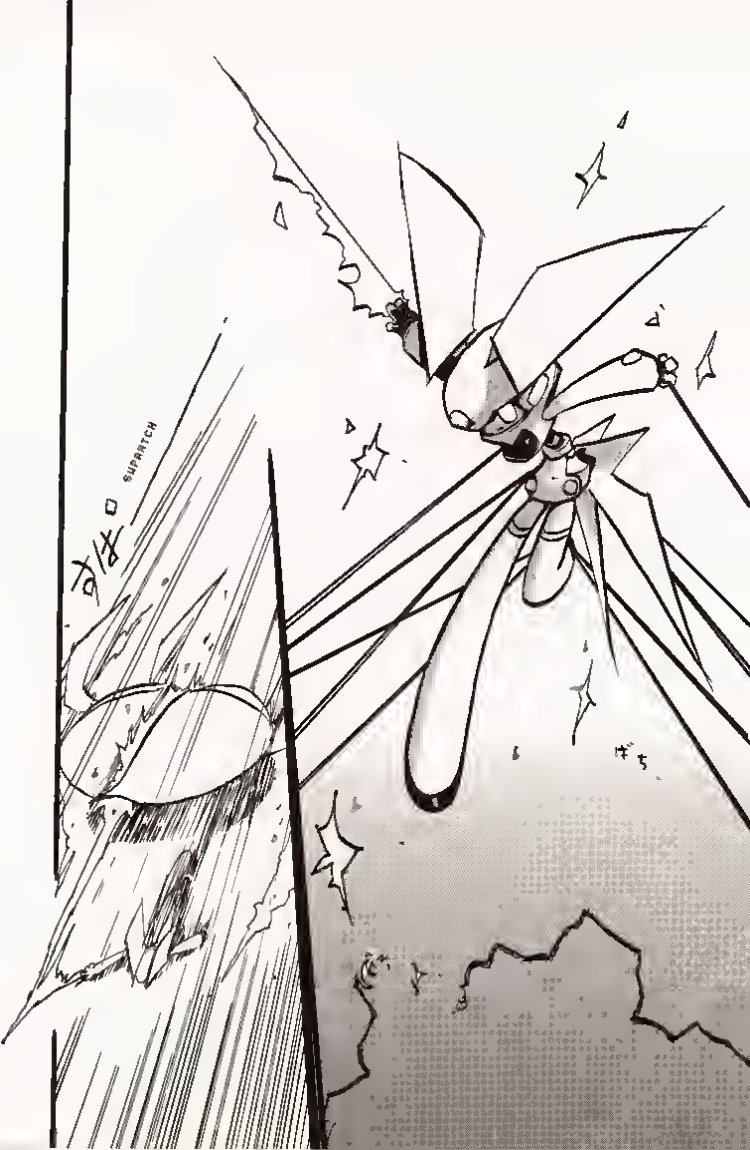

I'M PRETTY CERTAIN IT WILL HURT
IF IT HITS, WILL I DIE?!
FURIKO IS THERE TOO


EH?!
YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE A SWORD, RIGHT?
NORMALLY IT'S...!!
ZHUU

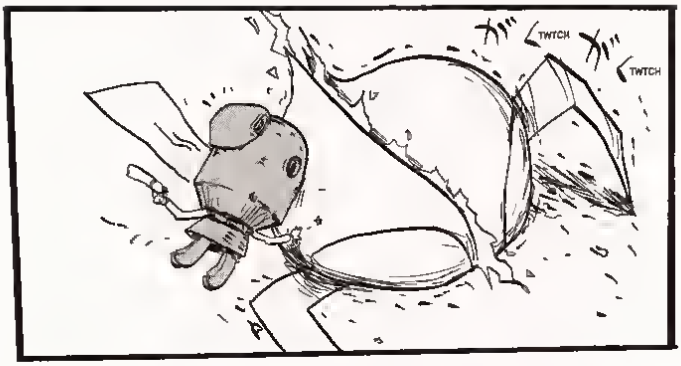
!!
HMM


VOAUU
SKRRRRCHH

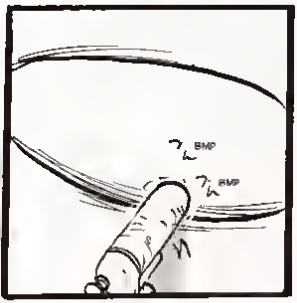

BAM
WHOO
WHOO


SUPRATCH

IT STEPPED ON ME!
AW, MAN!

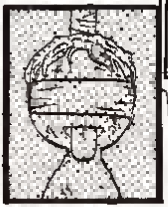


GET AWAY FROM THERE! IT'S TRYING TO CRYSTALLIZE!



I'M WILLING TO LET YOU

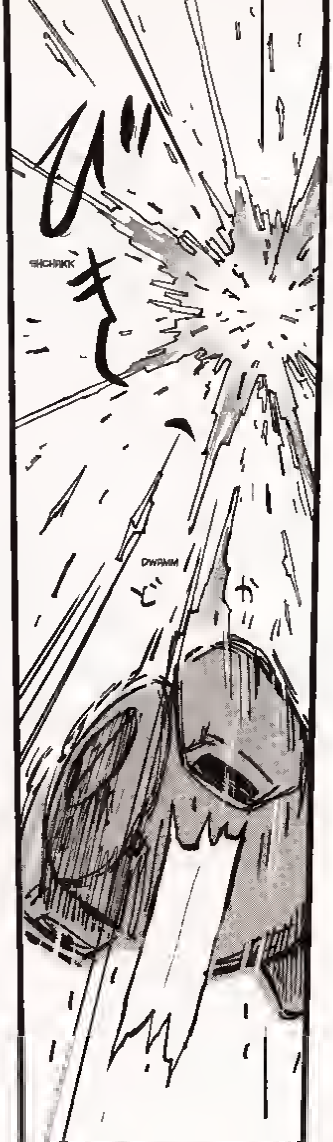
DO YOU READ ME?

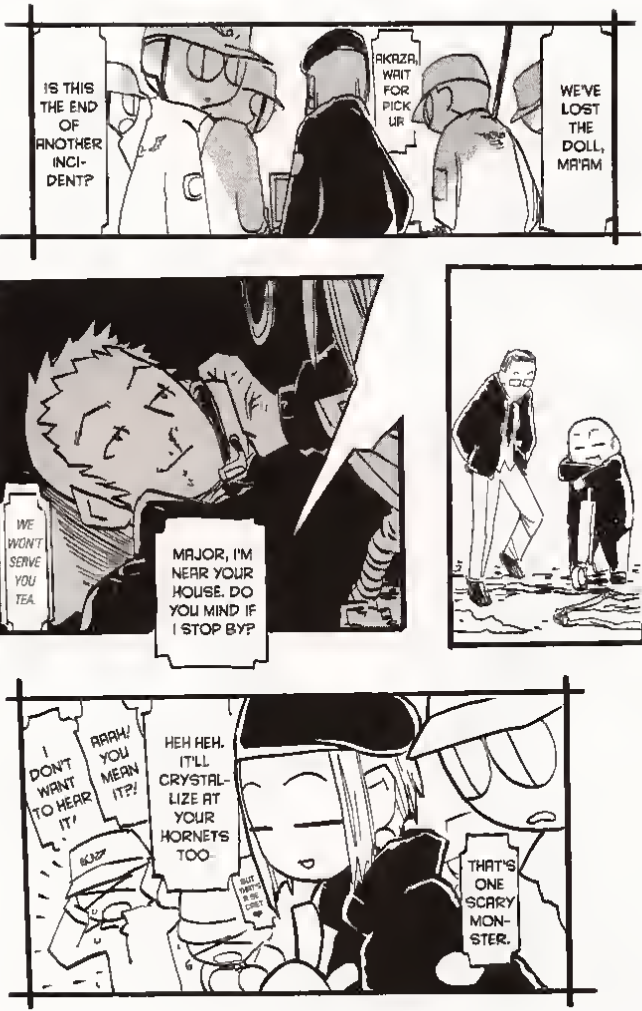


WAIT!

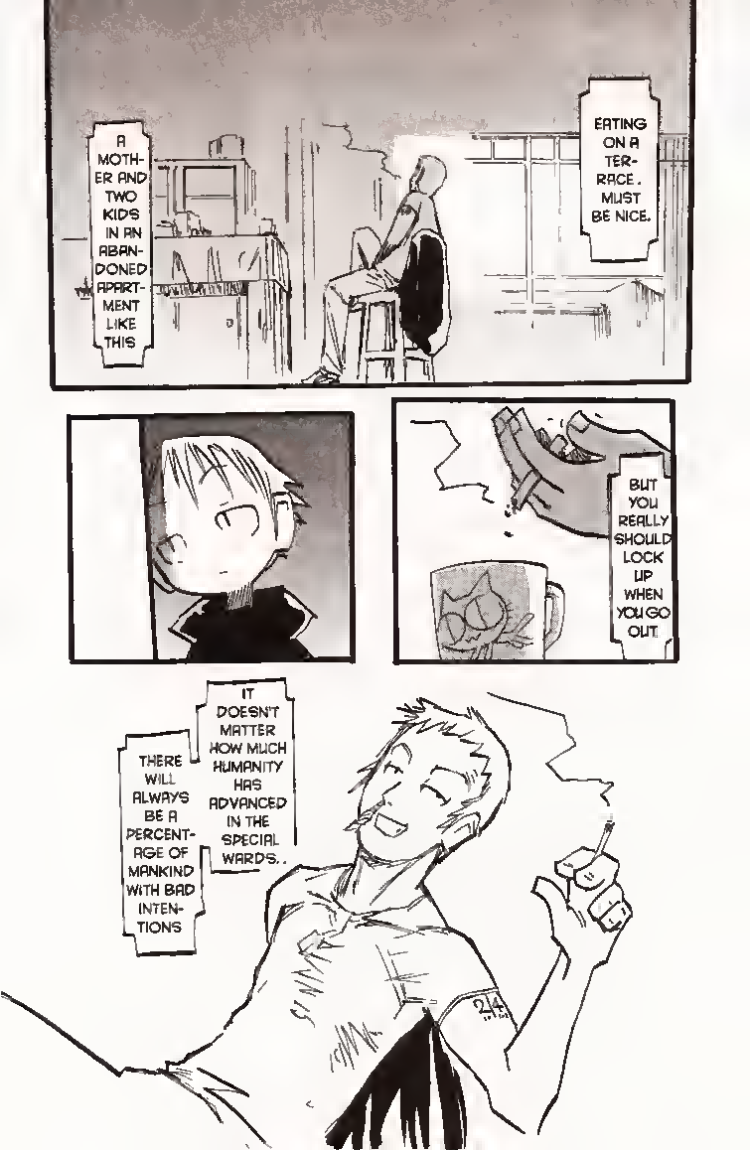
YOU WANT REVENGE FOR YOUR FRIENDS?

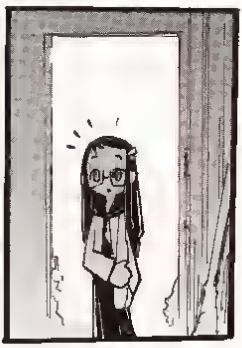
GLMM

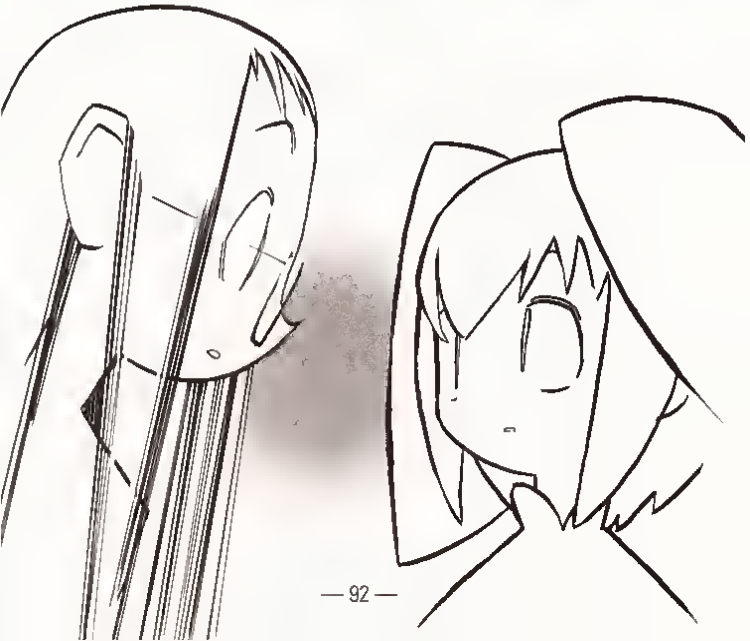

SHSHKK
DWAMM


IS THIS THE END OF ANOTHER INCI-DENT?
AKAZA, WAIT FOR PICK UP.
WE'VE LOST THE DOLL, MA'AM
WE WON'T SERVE YOU TEA.
MAJOR, I'M NEAR YOUR HOUSE. DO YOU MIND IF I STOP BY?
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
AAAH! YOU MEAN IT?!
HEH HEH. IT'LL CRYSTAL-LIZE AT YOUR HORNETS TOO.
BUT THAT'S A BIG COST ♥
THAT'S ONE SCARY MON-STER.

THAT WAS A LOT OF FUN! LET'S DO IT AGAIN, HUH?
UNN... WHY...?
YOU SEEM TO KNOW MY MOVE-MENTS, BUT YOU ALSO KNOW MY SPECIAL FUNC-TIONS
YOU ASKED ME TO BOARD YOU!
GRRSH
KRRSH
OW! OW!
GO TO MY ROOM.


A MOTHER AND TWO KIDS IN AN ABANDONED APARTMENT LIKE THIS
EATING ON A TERRACE. MUST BE NICE.
BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD LOCK UP WHEN YOU GO OUT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH HUMANITY HAS ADVANCED IN THE SPECIAL WARDS..
THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PERCENTAGE OF MANKIND WITH BAD INTENTIONS





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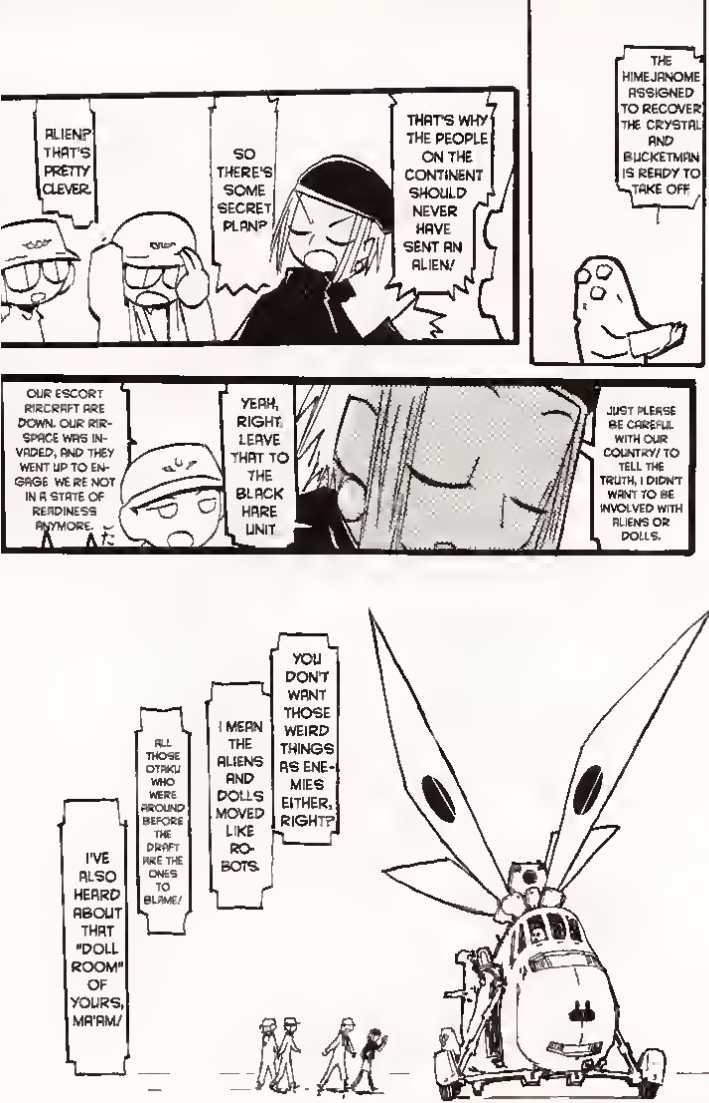
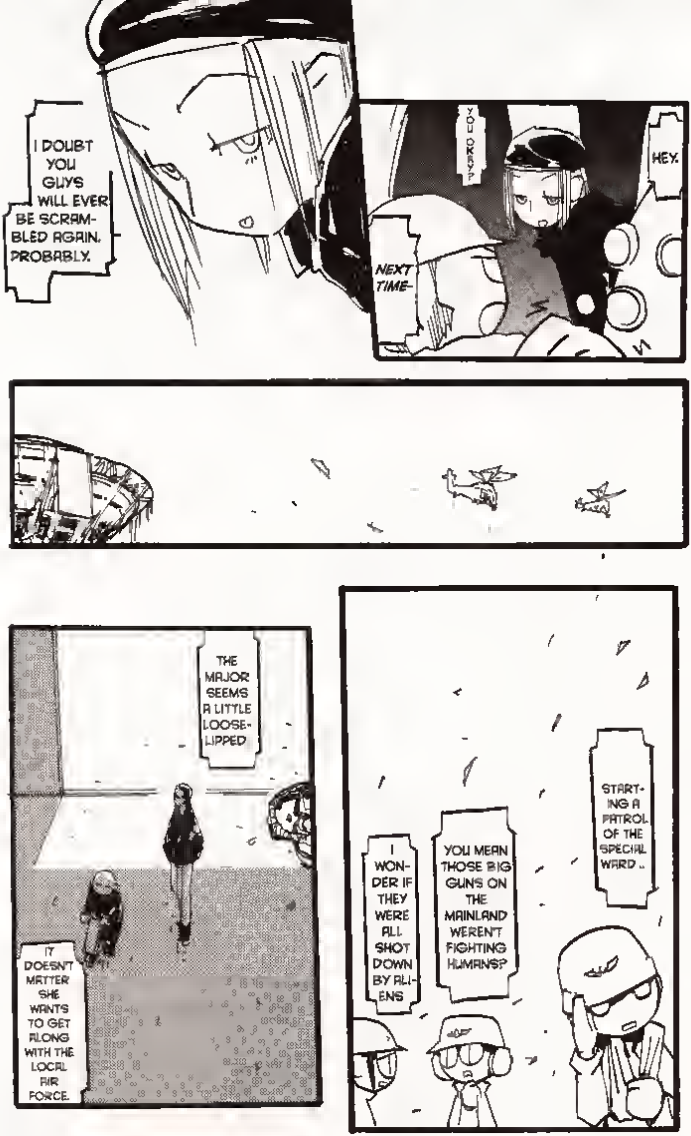
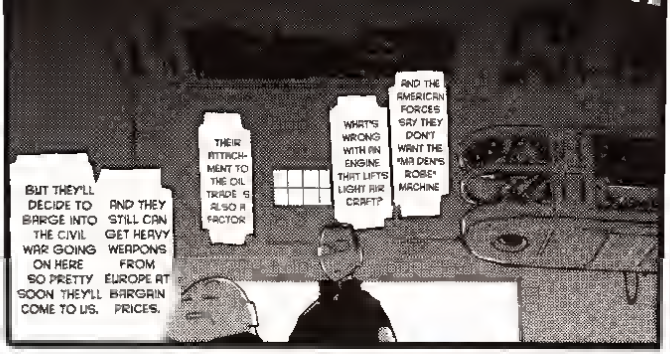
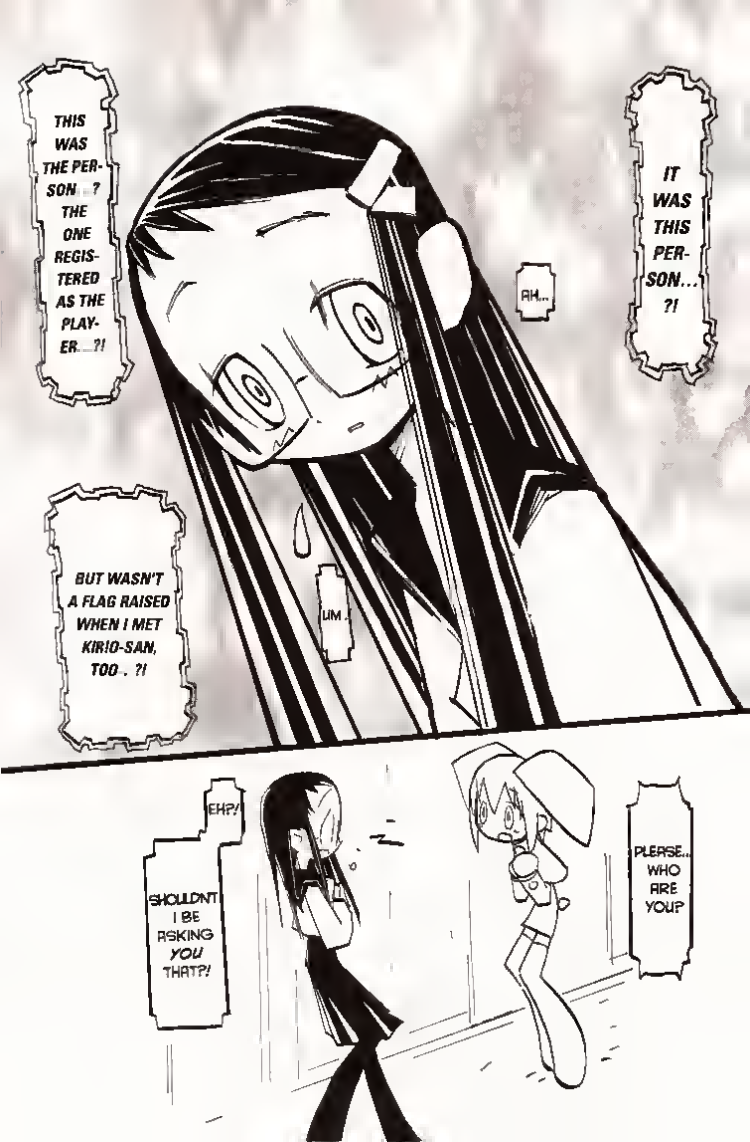

ALIEN? THAT'S PRETTY CLEVER.
SO THERE'S SOME SECRET PLAN?
THAT'S WHY THE PEOPLE ON THE CONTINENT SHOULD NEVER HAVE SENT AN ALIEN!
THE HIMEJANOME ASSIGNED TO RECOVER THE CRYSTAL AND BUCKETMAN IS READY TO TAKE OFF
OUR ESCORT AIRCRAFT ARE DOWN. OUR AIR-SPACE WAS INVADED, AND THEY WENT UP TO ENGAGE. WE'RE NOT IN A STATE OF READINESS ANYMORE.
YEAH, RIGHT. LEAVE THAT TO THE BLACK HARE UNIT.
JUST PLEASE BE CAREFUL WITH OUR COUNTRY. I TELL THE TRUTH, I DIDN'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH ALIENS OR DOLLS.
I'VE ALSO HEARD ABOUT THAT "DOLL ROOM" OF YOURS, MA'AM.
ALL THOSE OTAKU WHO WERE AROUND BEFORE THE DRAFT ARE THE ONES TO BLAME!
I MEAN THE ALIENS AND DOLLS MOVED LIKE ROBOTS.
YOU DON'T WANT THOSE WEIRD THINGS AS ENEMIES EITHER, RIGHT?

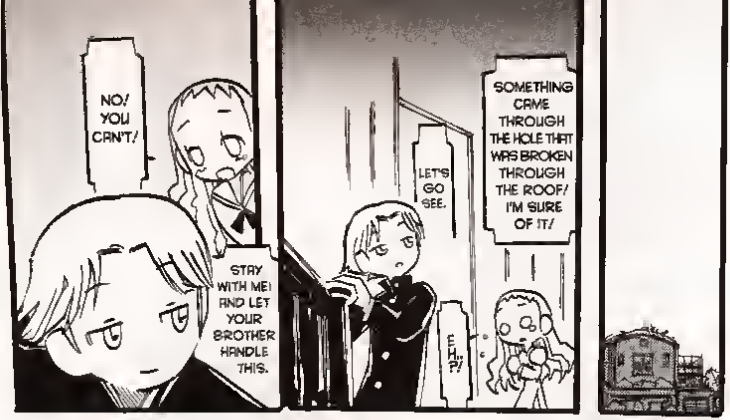

I DOUBT YOU GUYS WILL EVER BE SCRAMBLED AGAIN. PROBABLY.
NEXT TIME-
YOU GUYS!
HEY.
THE MAJOR SEEMS A LITTLE LOOSE-LIPPED
IT DOESN'T MATTER SHE WANTS TO GET ALONG WITH THE LOCAL AIR FORCE.
I WONDER IF THEY WERE ALL SHOT DOWN BY ALIENS
YOU MEAN THOSE BIG GUNS ON THE MAINLAND WEREN'T FIGHTING HUMANS?
STARTING A PATROL OF THE SPECIAL WARD..


BUT THEY'LL DECIDE TO BARGE INTO THE CIVIL WAR GOING ON HERE SO PRETTY SOON THEY'LL COME TO US.
AND THEY STILL CAN GET HEAVY WEAPONS FROM EUROPE AT BARGAIN PRICES.
THEIR ATTACHMENT TO THE OIL TRADE IS ALSO A FACTOR
WHAT'S WRONG WITH AN ENGINE THAT LIFTS LIGHT AIR CRAFT?
AND THE AMERICAN FORCES SAY THEY DON'T WANT THE "MR DEN'S ROBE" MACHINE

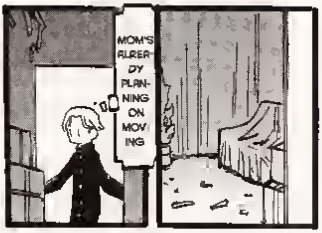
YO.
YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER, BUT WE MET WHEN YOU WERE A BABY

WHAT DID YOU SAY, KID?
GET OUT-TA HERE
YOU THINK YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR SISTER AND MOTHER BEING THIS CARE-LESS?
?
?
KEEEEE EEEH


THIS WAS THE PERSON...? THE ONE REGISTERED AS THE PLAYER...?!
IT WAS THIS PERSON...?!
AH...
BUT WASN'T A FLAG RAISED WHEN I MET KIRIO-SAN, TOO..?!
UM..
EHP?
SHOULDN'T I BE ASKING YOU THAT?
PLEASE... WHO ARE YOU?

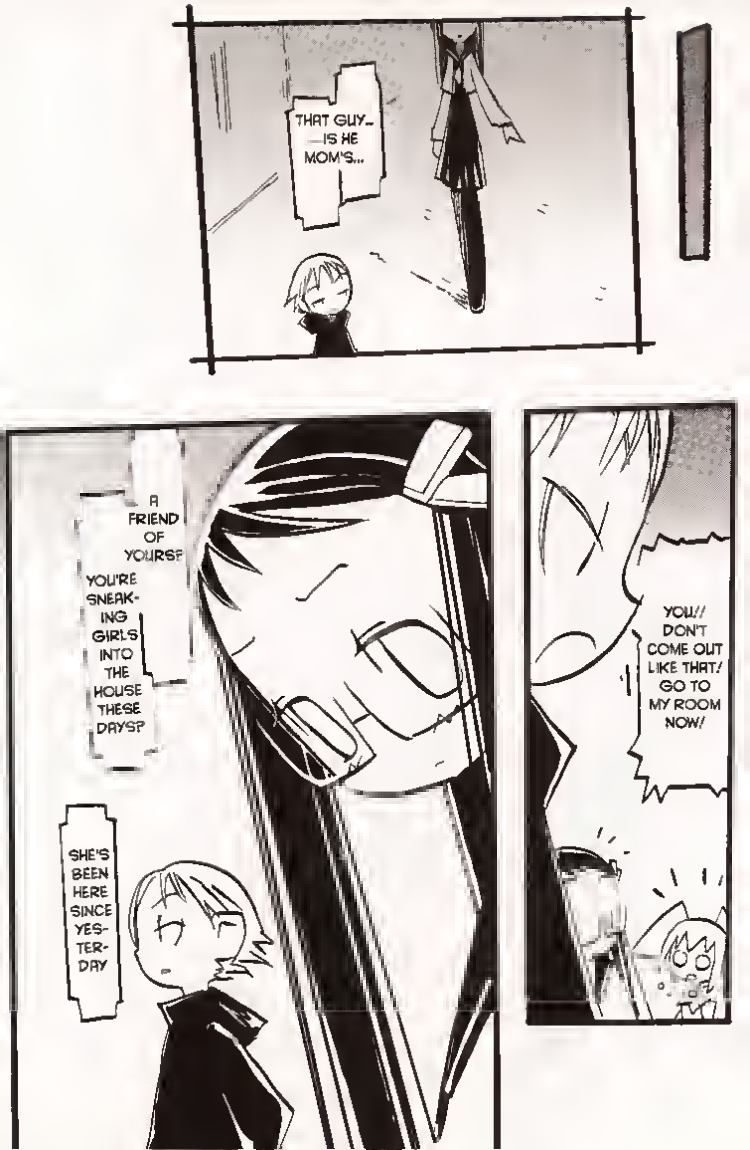

NO/ YOU CAN'T/
STAY WITH ME! AND LET YOUR BROTHER HANDLE THIS.
LET'S GO SEE.
EH?/
SOMETHING CAME THROUGH THE HOLE THAT WAS BROKEN THROUGH THE ROOF/ I'M SURE OF IT/

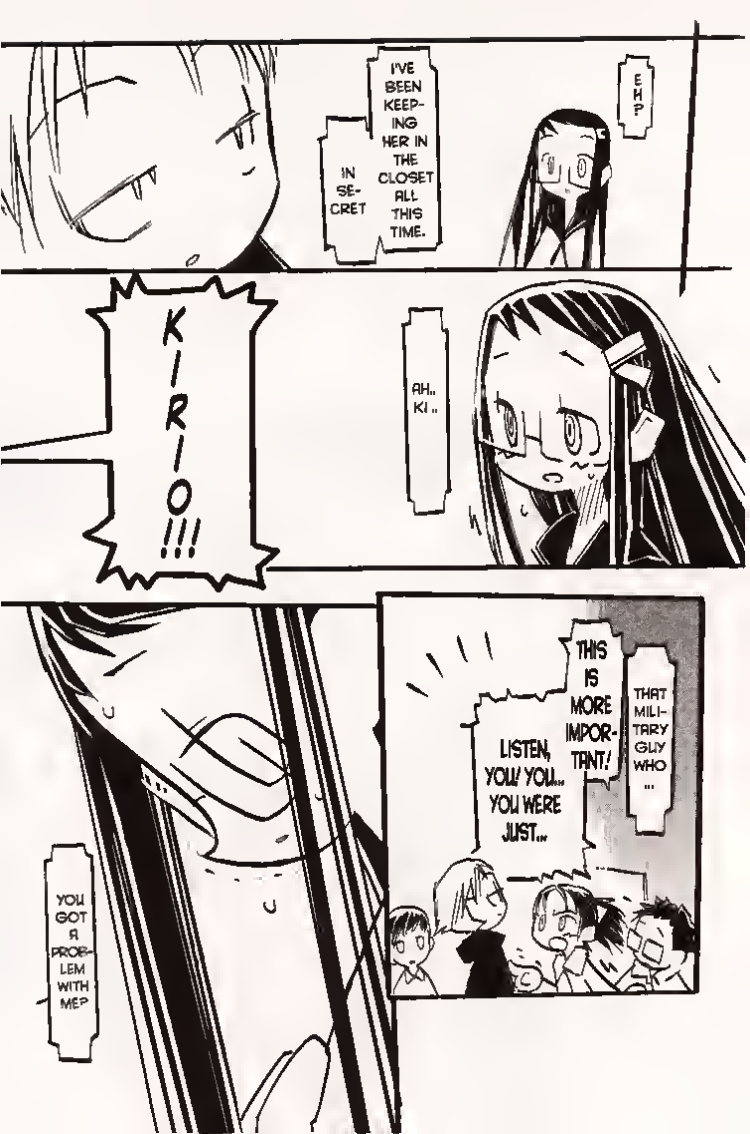
!?
SHFF


MOM'S ALREADY PLANNING ON MOVING

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

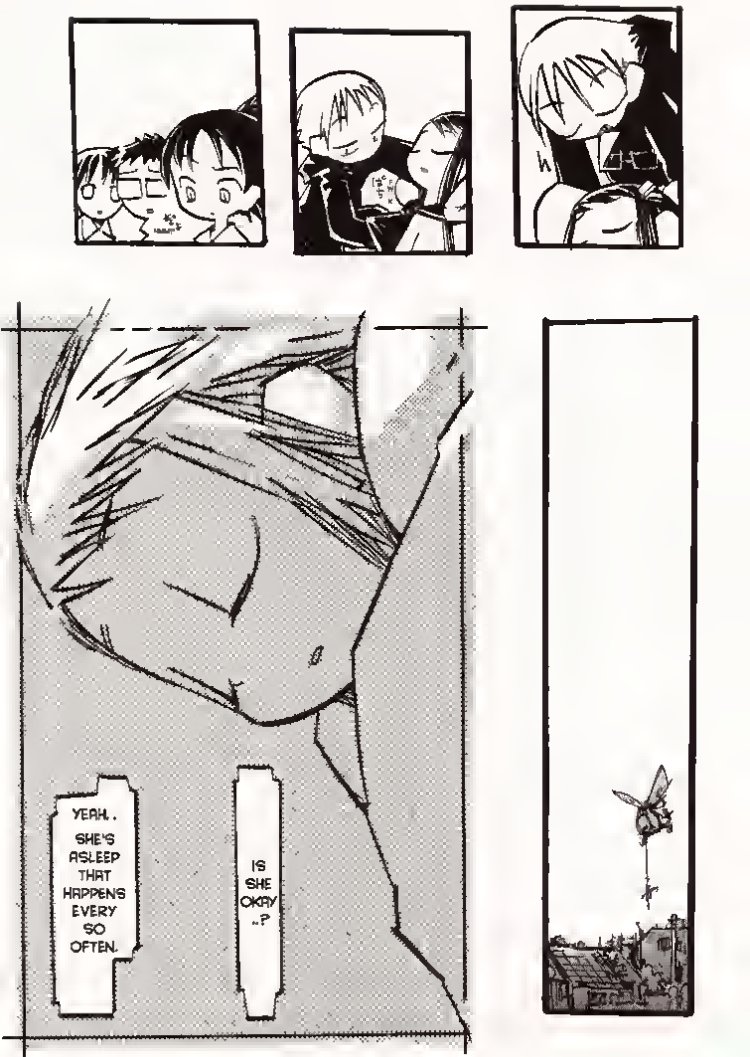
LOOK AT THOSE DEAD EYES. IS HE PREPARED TO TAKE A BEATING?
OR MAYBE HE ACTUALLY HAS SOMETHING.
HIS BREATHING IS REGULAR.
YOU UGLY LITTLE..
LIEUTENANT ARE YOU FAR FROM YOUR MACHINE?
BZZT
SEE YOU LATER, FURIKO-CHAN!!
SAY HI TO YOUR MOM FOR ME.
SEE YOU, KID
I'LL BE GOING NOW.

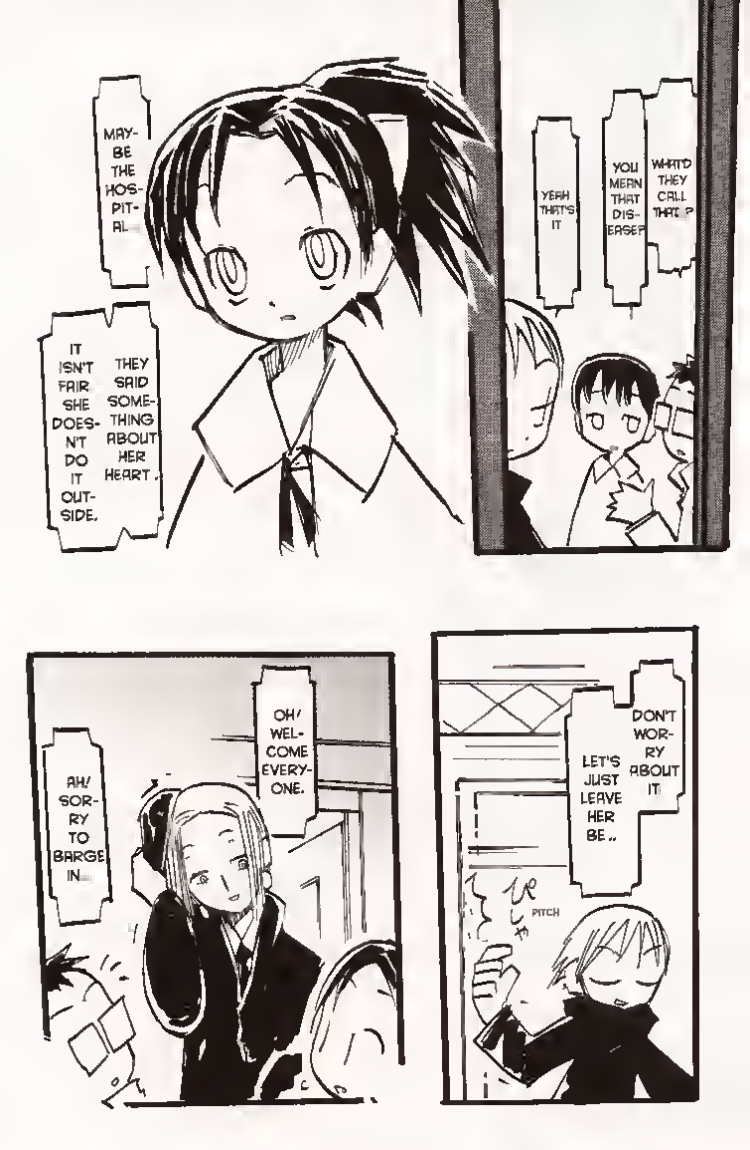

THAT GUY... —IS HE MOM'S...
A FRIEND OF YOURS?
YOU'RE SNEAKING GIRLS INTO THE HOUSE THESE DAYS?
SHE'S BEEN HERE SINCE YESTERDAY
YOU!! DON'T COME OUT LIKE THAT! GO TO MY ROOM NOW!

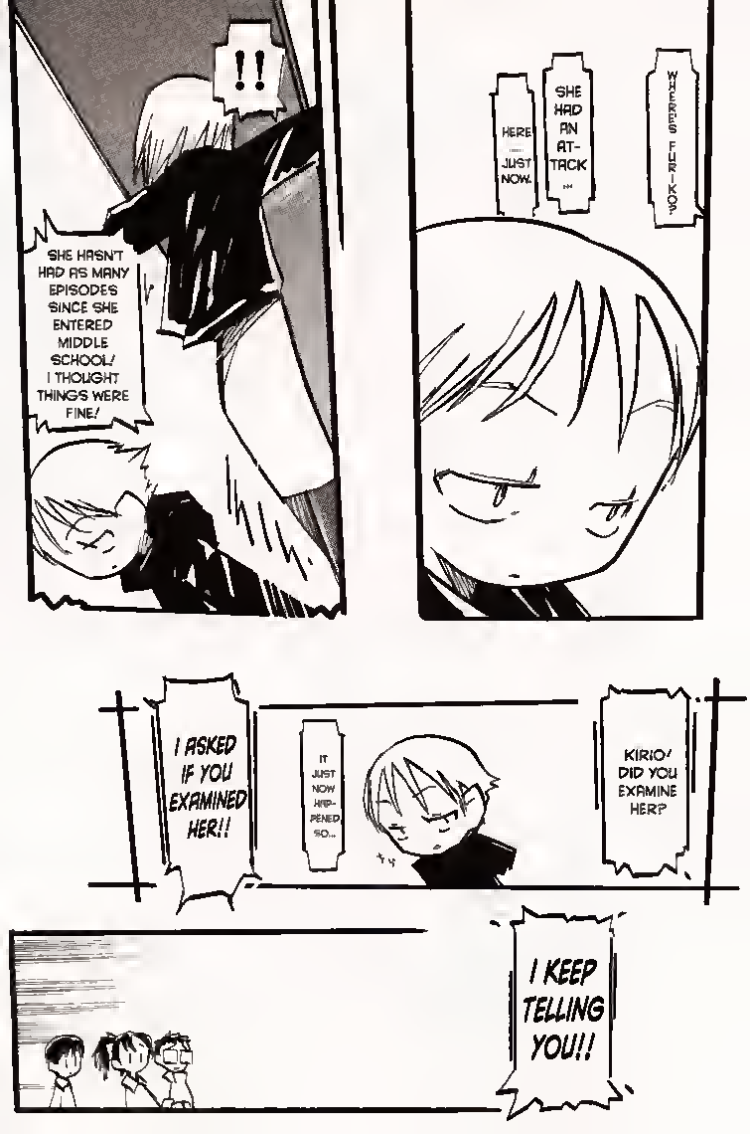

EH?
I'VE BEEN KEEPING HER IN THE CLOSET ALL THIS TIME.
IN SECRET
AH... KI..
KIRIO!!!
THAT MILITARY GUY WHO ...
THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT!
LISTEN, YOU! YOU... YOU WERE JUST...
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH ME?

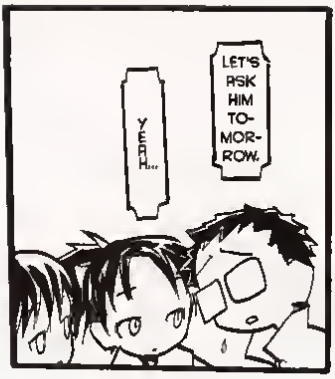
ドサッ
THUD

…ISK…

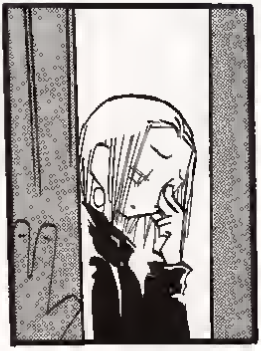

YEAH. SHE'S ASLEEP THAT HAPPENS EVERY SO OFTEN.
IS SHE OKAY ..?

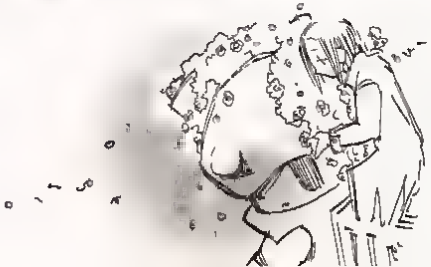

MAYBE THE HOSPITAL
IT ISN'T FAIR SHE DOESN'T DO IT OUTSIDE.
THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT HER HEART.
YEAH THAT'S IT
YOU MEAN THAT DISEASE?
WHAT'D THEY CALL THAT..?
AH/ SORRY TO BARGE IN..
OH/ WELCOME EVERYONE.
LET'S JUST LEAVE HER BE..
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
PITCH

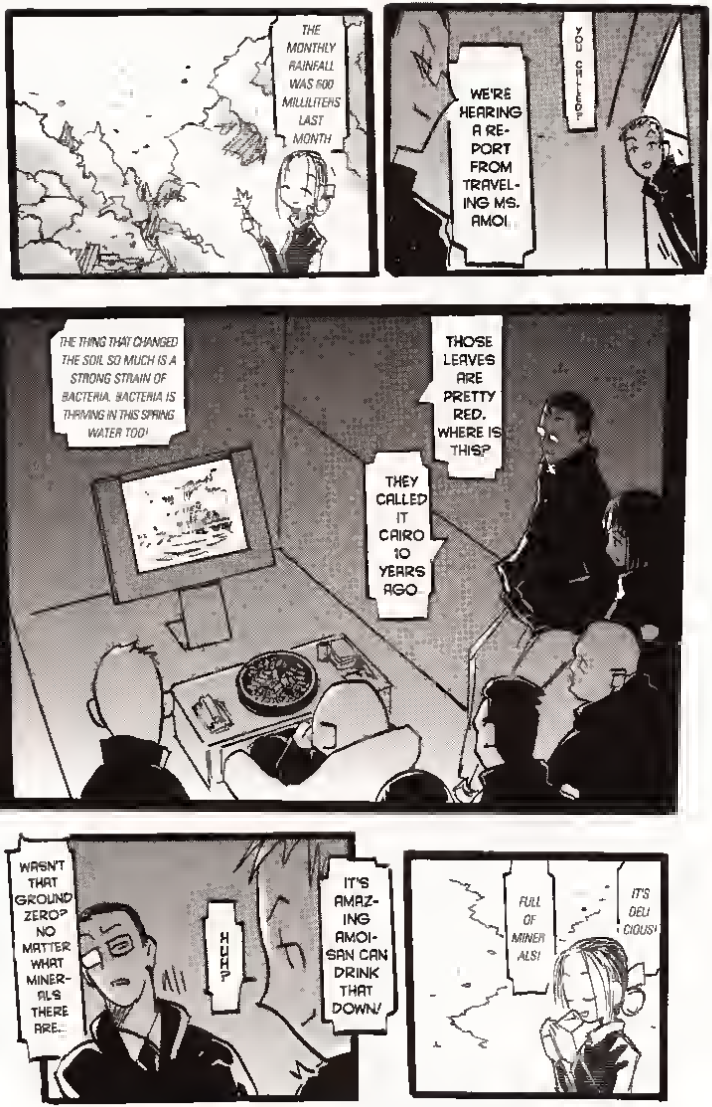

WHERE'S FUJIKO?
SHE HAD AN ATTACK...
HERE — JUST NOW.
!!
SHE HASN'T HAD AS MANY EPISODES SINCE SHE ENTERED MIDDLE SCHOOL/ I THOUGHT THINGS WERE FINE/
KIRIO/ DID YOU EXAMINE HER?
IT JUST NOW HAPPENED SO...
I ASKED IF YOU EXAMINED HER!!
I KEEP TELLING YOU!!

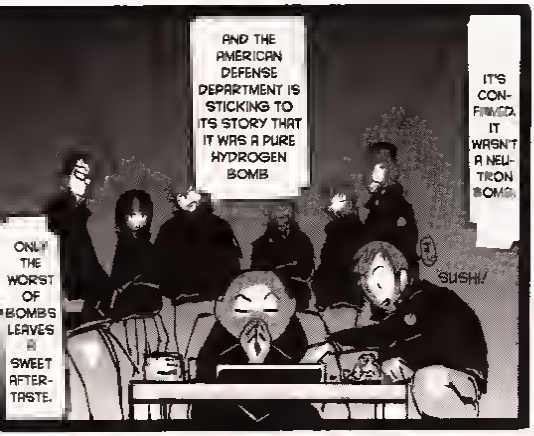

LET'S ASK HIM TO-MOR-ROW.
YEAH...

SORRY TO INTRUDE.

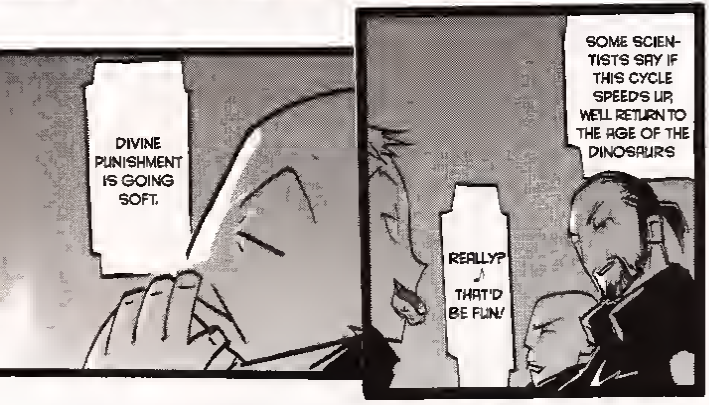


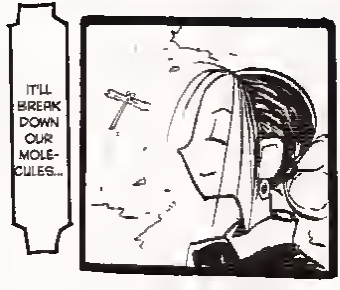


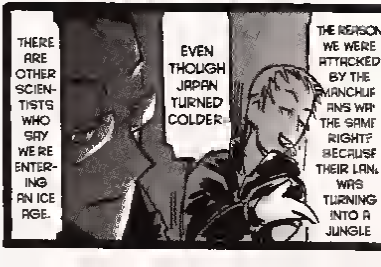

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL WAS 600 MILLILITERS LAST MONTH
YOU CHIEF?
WE'RE HEARING A REPORT FROM TRAVELING MS. AMOI
THE THING THAT CHANGED THE SOIL SO MUCH IS A STRONG STRAIN OF BACTERIA. BACTERIA IS THRIVING IN THIS SPRING WATER TOO!
THOSE LEAVES ARE PRETTY RED. WHERE IS THIS?
THEY CALLED IT CAIRO 10 YEARS AGO.
WASN'T THAT GROUND ZERO? NO MATTER WHAT MINERALS THERE ARE...
HUH?
IT'S AMAZING AMOI-SAN CAN DRINK THAT DOWN!
FULL OF MINERALS!
IT'S DELICIOUS!

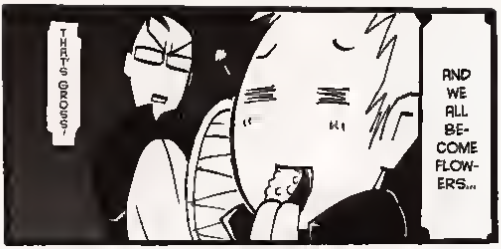

AND THE AMERICAN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IS STICKING TO ITS STORY THAT IT WAS A PURE HYDROGEN BOMB
IT'S CONFIRMED. IT WASN'T A NEUTRON BOMB.
ONLY THE WORST OF BOMBS LEAVES A SWEET AFTERTASTE.
SUSHI!

WHO KNOWS? IT MIGHT MEAN THAT THE GREENERY FROM THE EARLIER ERA IS RETURNING.

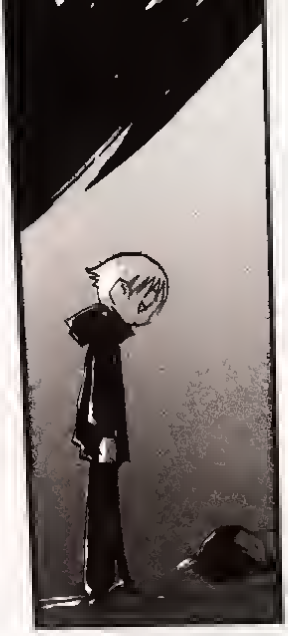

DIVINE PUNISHMENT IS GOING SOFT.
SOME SCIENTISTS SAY IF THIS CYCLE SPEEDS UP, WE'LL RETURN TO THE AGE OF THE DINOSAURS
REALLY? ♪ THAT'D BE FUN!

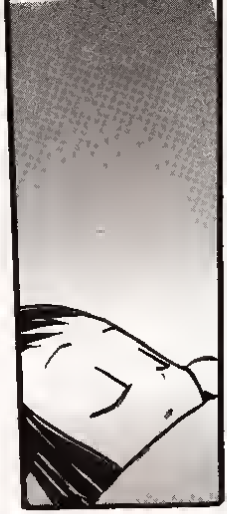

IT'LL BREAK DOWN OUR MOLECULES...


THERE ARE OTHER SCIENTISTS WHO SAY WE'RE ENTERING AN ICE AGE.
EVEN THOUGH JAPAN TURNED COLDER
THE REASON WE WERE ATTACKED BY THE MANCHURIANS WAS THE SAME, RIGHT? BECAUSE THEIR LAND WAS TURNING INTO A JUNGLE


THAT'S GROSS!
AND WE ALL BECOME FLOWERS...

SHALL WE DIS COVER WHAT'S IN HERE?
ALL OF THE PLACES WHERE PURE BOMBS FELL ARE LIKE THIS!





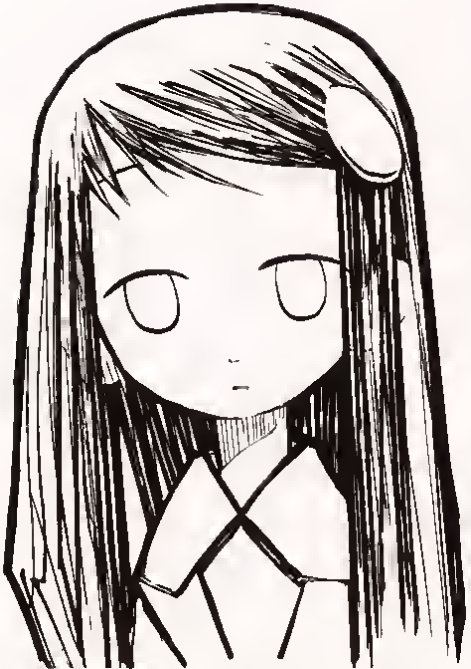
IF ONLY SHE WEREN'T AROUND...

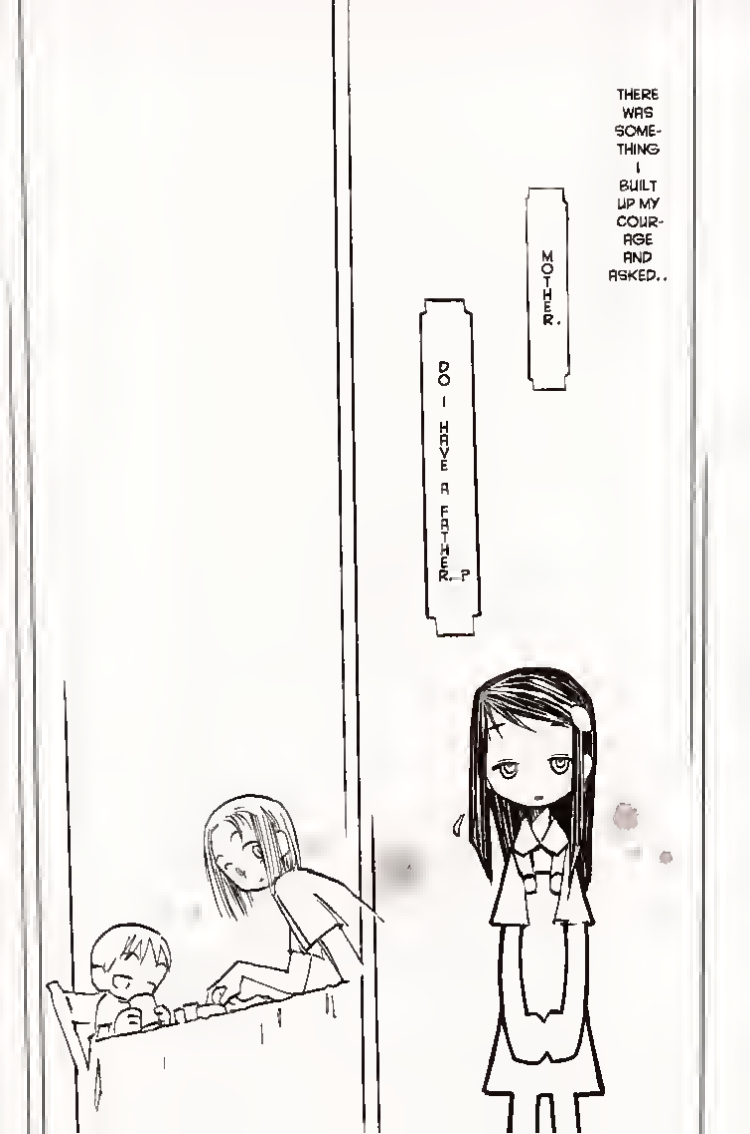
WHAT ARE YOU LOOK-ING AT?

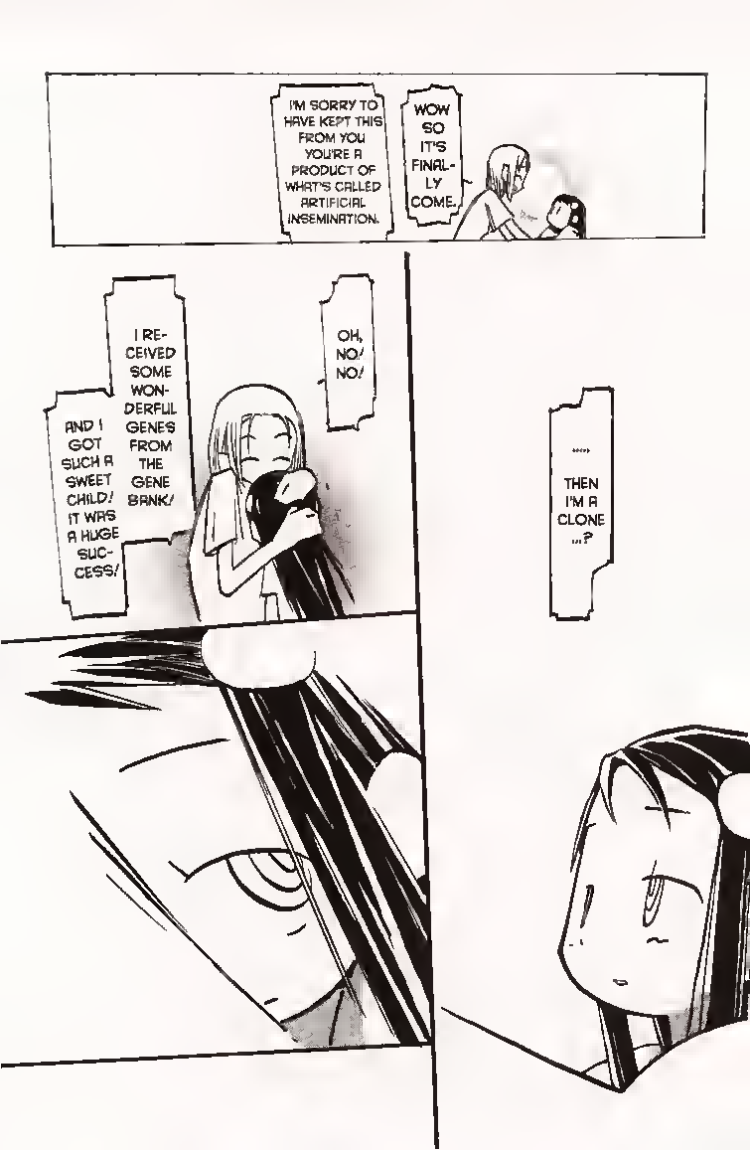
ズバ
SUPER-BAMM
ママァ〜!!
15 YEARS EARLIER
DID YOU SEE THAT? SOME NEW AD-VANCED SOL-DIER!
QUIT STICKING YOUR HEAD OUT! THEY'LL MURDER ME IF A SCIENTIST LIKE YOU DIED!

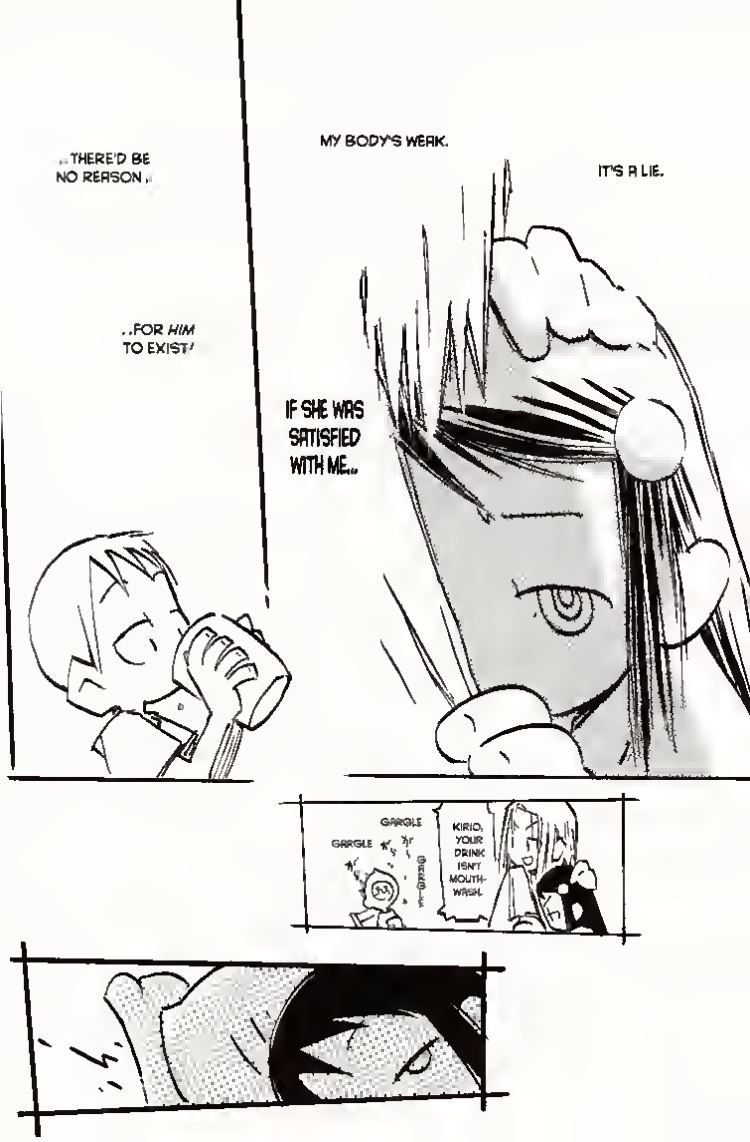
WHOA!
WHAT?
WAIT! DON'T SHOOT!
SHE'S NOT AN ENEMY! SHE'S BECOME MY FRIEND!
IT'S THAT GIRL FROM TOMUN-CHAP!
OKAY! CAN YOU TAKE OUT THE JAPA-NESE ARMY WITH THAT?
WHA...
.....
?

#6

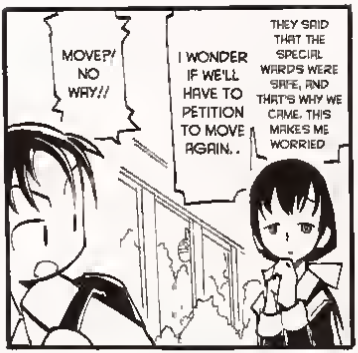



THERE WAS SOMETHING I BUILT UP MY COURAGE AND ASKED..
MOTHER.
DO I HAVE A FATHER..?


I'M SORRY TO HAVE KEPT THIS FROM YOU YOU'RE A PRODUCT OF WHAT'S CALLED ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION.
WOW SO IT'S FINALLY COME.
OH, NO/ NO/
I RECEIVED SOME WONDERFUL GENES FROM THE GENE BANK/
AND I GOT SUCH A SWEET CHILD/ IT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS/
.....
THEN I'M A CLONE ...?

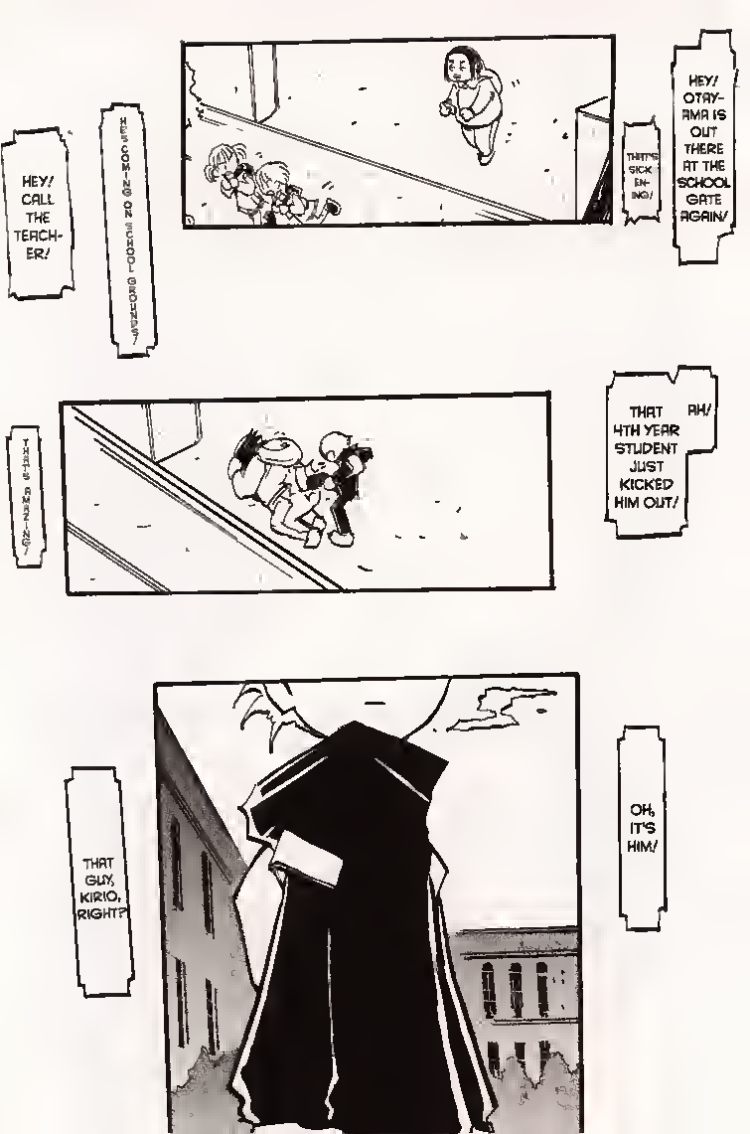

..THERE'D BE NO REASON..
..FOR *HIM* TO EXIST.
IF SHE WAS SATISFIED WITH ME...
MY BODY'S WEAK.
IT'S A LIE.
GARGLE
GARGLE
KIRIO, YOUR DRINK ISN'T MOUTHWASH.

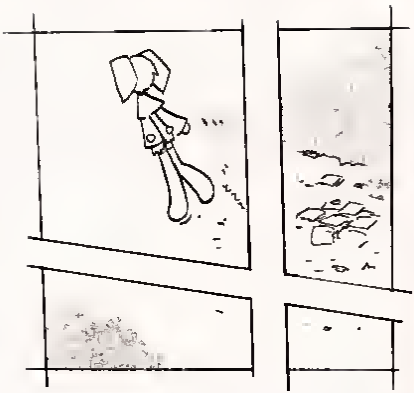
PUMP
IS IT MORNING...?
OH, LOOK AT THE TIME!
.....
FIP

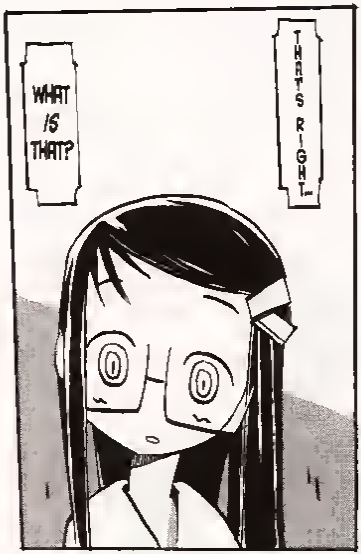

MOVE?! NO WAY!!
I WONDER IF WE'LL HAVE TO PETITION TO MOVE AGAIN..
THEY SAID THAT THE SPECIAL WARD'S WERE SAFE, AND THAT'S WHY WE CAME. THIS MAKES ME WORRIED

AND SO...THAT'S WHY I THINK KIRIO'S ACTING SO WEIRD!

SEE YOU LA-TER!

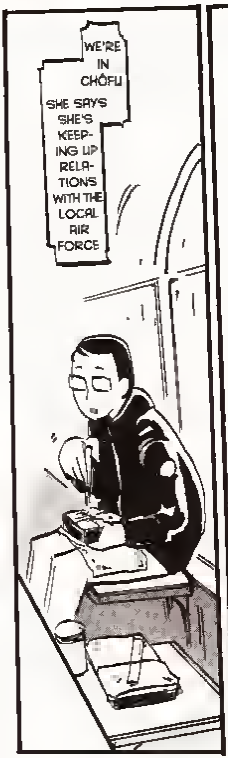

HEY! OTAYAMA IS OUT THERE AT THE SCHOOL GATE AGAIN!
THAT'S SICK-ING!
HE'S GOT-TA BE ON SCHOOL GROUNDS!
HEY! CALL THE TEACHER!
AH! THAT 4TH YEAR STUDENT JUST KICKED HIM OUT!
THAT'S SICK-ING!
OH, IT'S HIM!
THAT GUY, KIRIO, RIGHT?

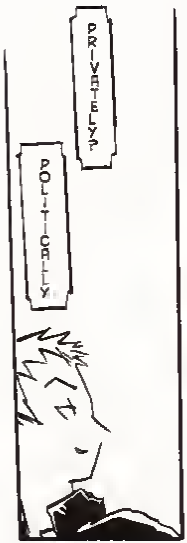


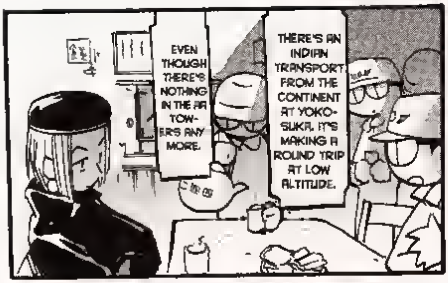

THAT'S RIGHT...
WHAT IS THAT?

IF IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO GET TO SCHOOL
...AT LEAST GO TO THE LIBRARY.

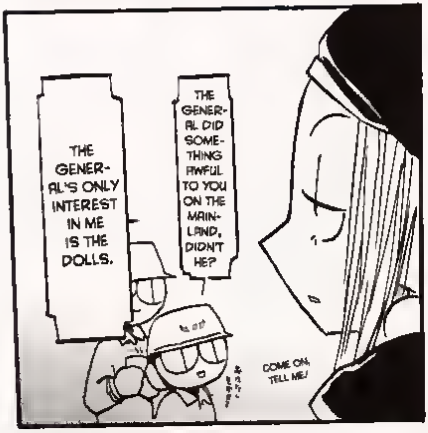
WHERE'S THE MAJOR?
RIGHT NOW, IT'S BETTER THAT SHE ISN'T HERE.


WE'RE IN CHŌFU
SHE SAYS SHE'S KEEPING UP RELATIONS WITH THE LOCAL AIR FORCE


PRIVATELY
POLITICALLY


EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NOTHING IN THE AIR TOWER'S ANY MORE.
THERE'S AN INDIAN TRANSPORT FROM THE CONTINENT AT YOKOSUKA. IT'S MAKING A ROUND TRIP AT LOW ALTITUDE.

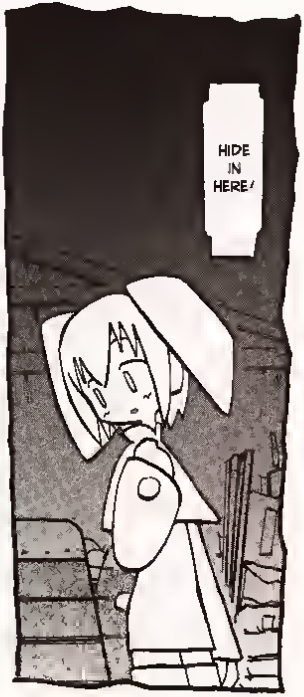
WELL, WE'RE GOING TO IGNORE ALL THIS, AND KEEP THE UPPER RANK'S AT ARM'S DISTANCE.
THEY'RE TRACING THE ALIENS, RIGHT?! I THOUGHT YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH THEM TOO

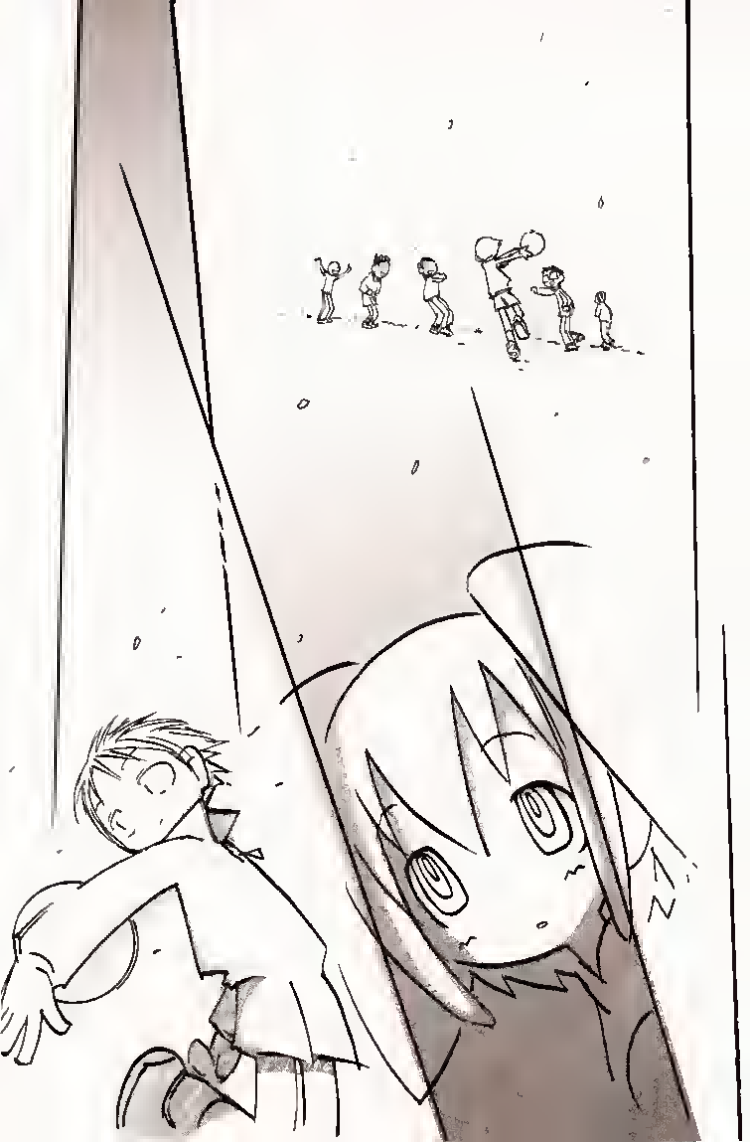

THE GENERAL'S ONLY INTEREST IN ME IS THE DOLLS.
THE GENERAL DID SOMETHING AWFUL TO YOU ON THE MAINLAND, DIDN'T HE?
COME ON, TELL ME!

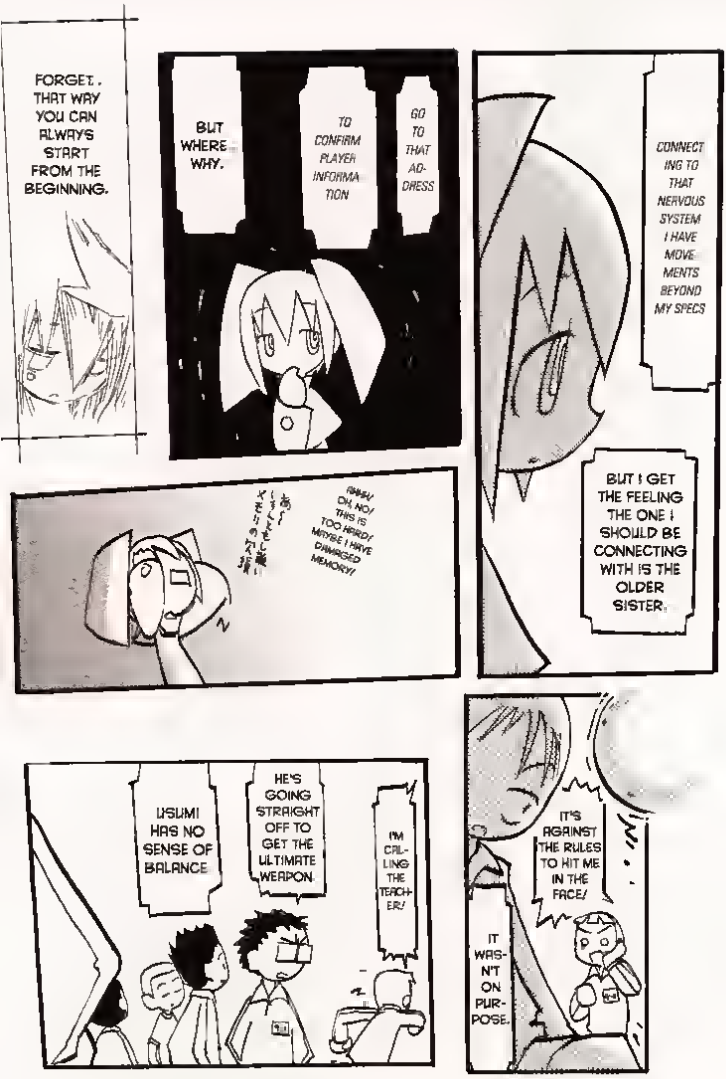
A U.N. INVESTIGATION?

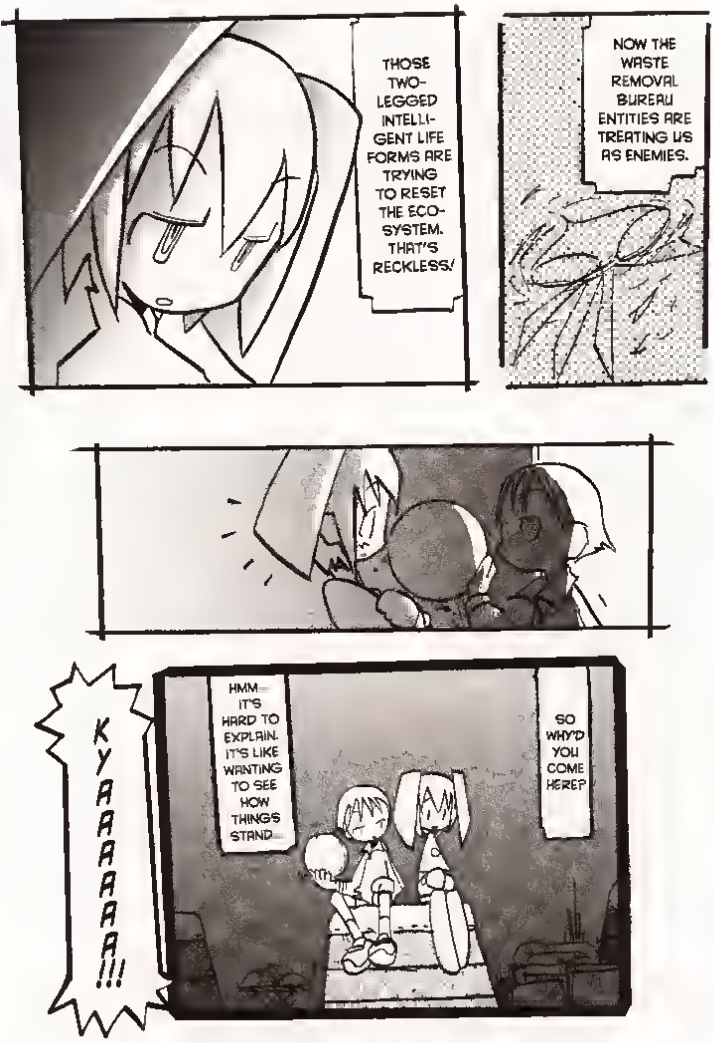
WHAT IS SHE DO-ING HERE?!

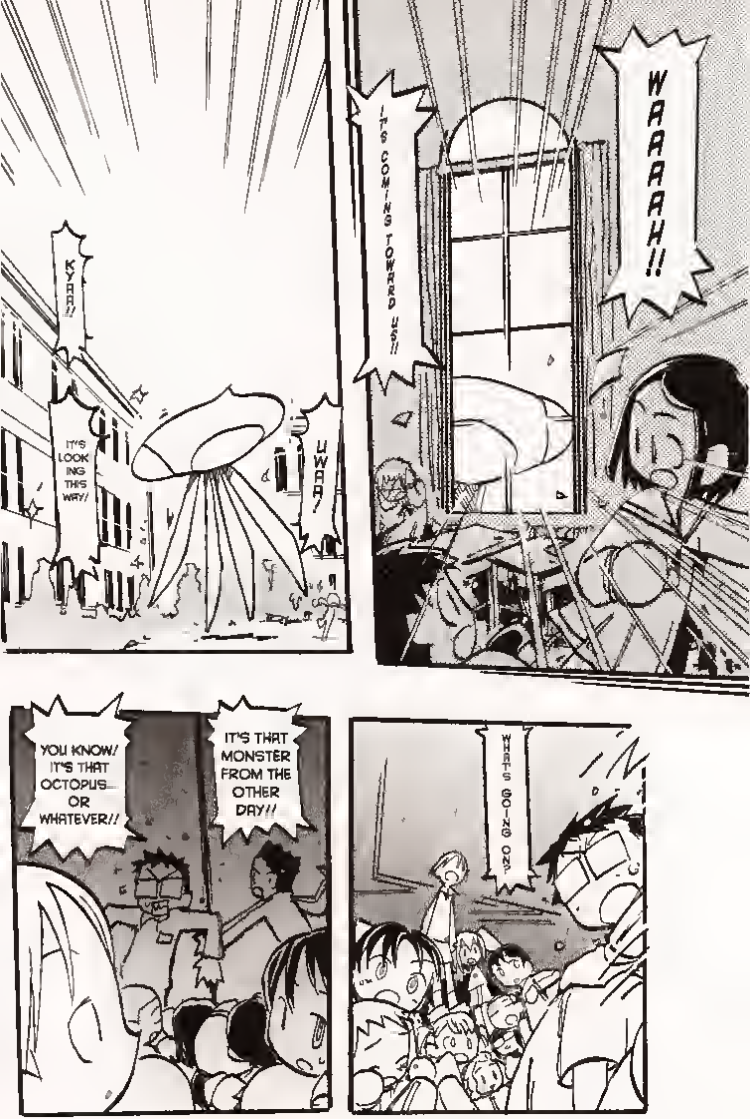
DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO WANDER AROUND?
GOOD THING THE NEXT CLASS IS GYM.


HIDE IN HERE!

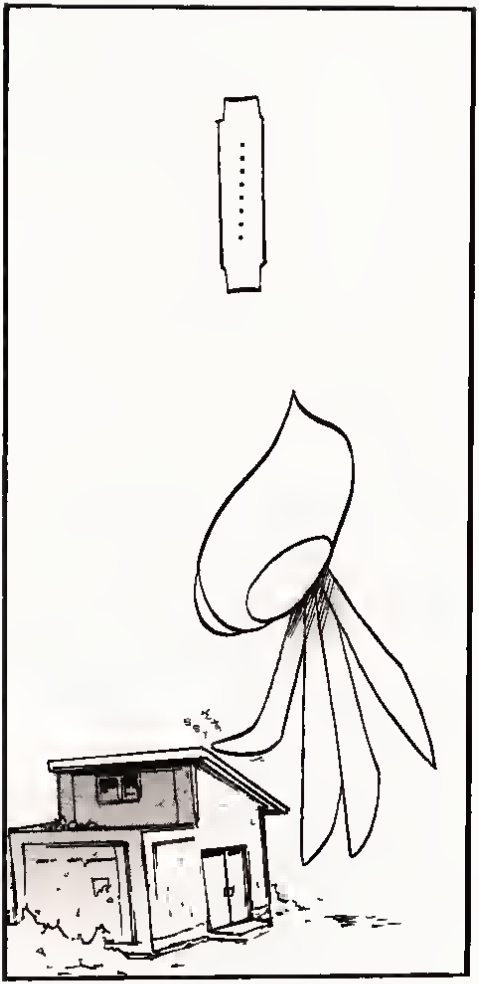



FORGET. THAT WAY YOU CAN ALWAYS START FROM THE BEGINNING.
BUT WHERE WHY.
TO CONFIRM PLAYER INFORMATION
GO TO THAT ADDRESS
CONNECTING TO THAT NERVOUS SYSTEM I HAVE MOVEMENTS BEYOND MY SPECS
BUT I GET THE FEELING THE ONE I SHOULD BE CONNECTING WITH IS THE OLDER SISTER.
AHHH! OH, NO! THIS IS TOO WEIRD! MAYBE I HAVE DAMAGED MEMORY!
IT'S AGAINST THE RULES TO HIT ME IN THE FACE!
IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE.
I'M CALLING THE TEACHER!
HE'S GOING STRAIGHT OFF TO GET THE ULTIMATE WEAPON.
USUMI HAS NO SENSE OF BALANCE


THOSE TWO-LEGGED INTELLI-GENT LIFE FORMS ARE TRYING TO RESET THE ECO-SYSTEM. THAT'S RECKLESS!
NOW THE WASTE REMOVAL BUREAU ENTITIES ARE TREATING US AS ENEMIES.
KYAAAAAA!!!
HMM— IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN. IT'S LIKE WANTING TO SEE HOW THINGS STAND—
SO WHY'D YOU COME HERE?

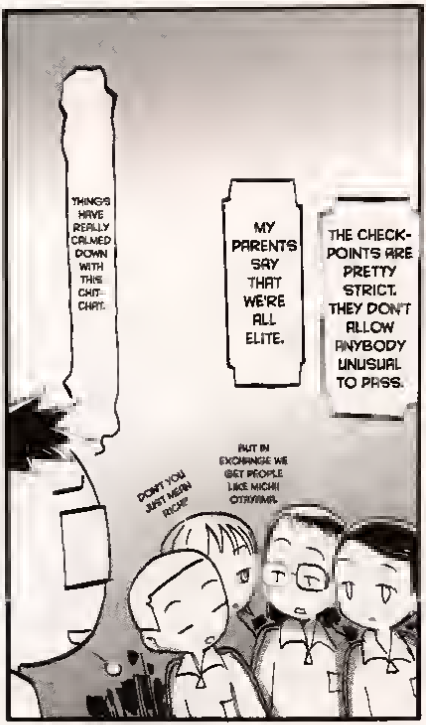

WAAAAH!!
IT'S COMING TOWARD US!!
UWAH!
KYAA!!
IT'S LOOKING THIS WAY!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S THAT MONSTER FROM THE OTHER DAY!!
YOU KNOW! IT'S THAT OCTOPUS— OR WHATEVER!!

HE MEANS ME?
YO LI..
..UM..
I'M...
...CALLED
Q.KO!
THAT'S A WEIRD NAME
EH? WHO'S THAT?

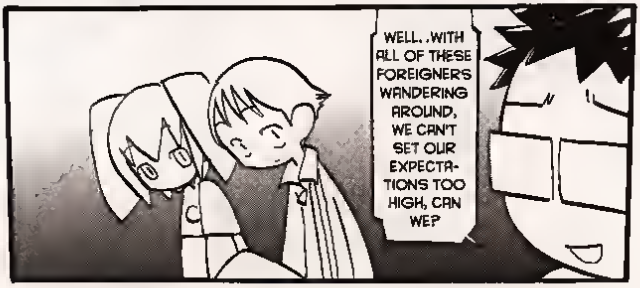


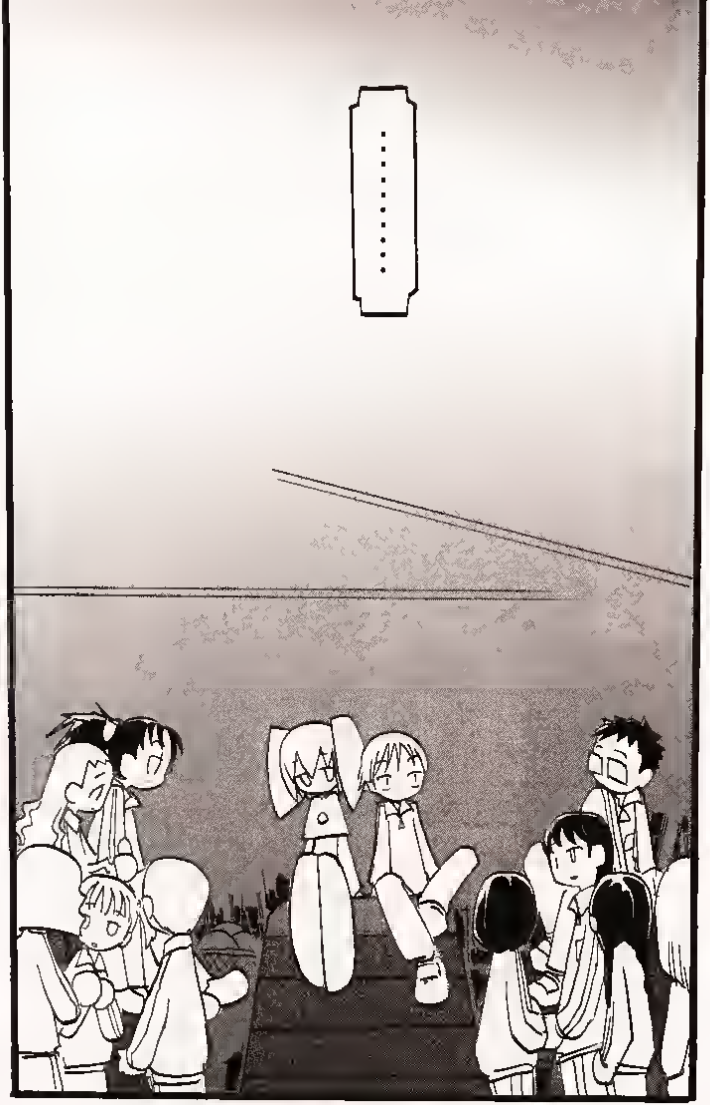
#7

AND SUDDENLY MY BROTHER IS HOLED UP IN HIS ROOM.
IT'S BECAUSE THESE THINGS HAPPEN THAT MAMA WANTS TO MOVE!
YOU TOO, SHIINO-CHAN? MY MOTHER SAID THE SAME THING!

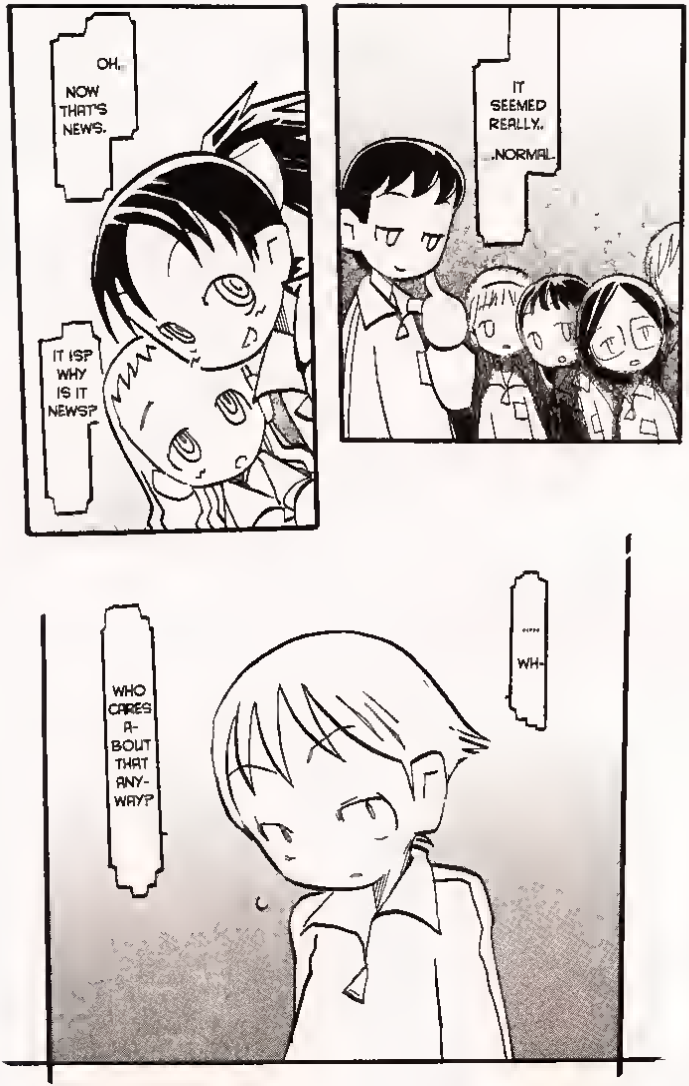

THINGS HAVE REALLY CALMED DOWN WITH THIS CHIT-CHAT.
MY PARENTS SAY THAT WE'RE ALL ELITE.
THE CHECK-POINTS ARE PRETTY STRICT. THEY DON'T ALLOW ANYBODY UNUSUAL TO PASS.
DON'T YOU JUST MEAN RICH?
BUT IN EXCHANGE WE GET PEOPLE LIKE MICHI OTAKIMA.

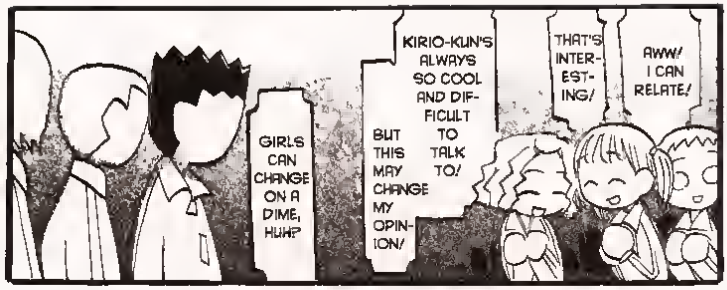
I'VE HEARD IT'S PRETTY HARD TO MOVE TO ANY OF THE OTHER SPECIAL WARDS.
I'VE HEARD THAT THIS PLACE IS THE SAFEST IN ALL OF JAPAN.


WELL..WITH ALL OF THESE FOREIGNERS WANDERING AROUND, WE CAN'T SET OUR EXPECTA-TIONS TOO HIGH, CAN WE?

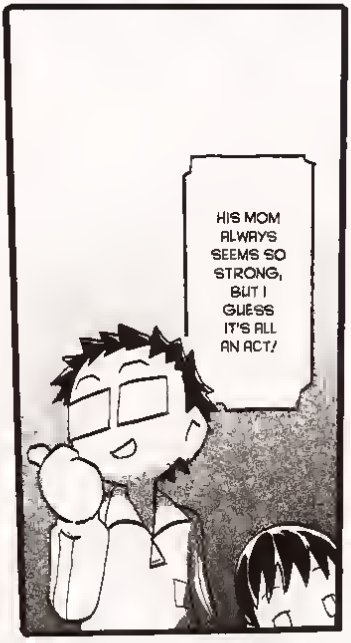


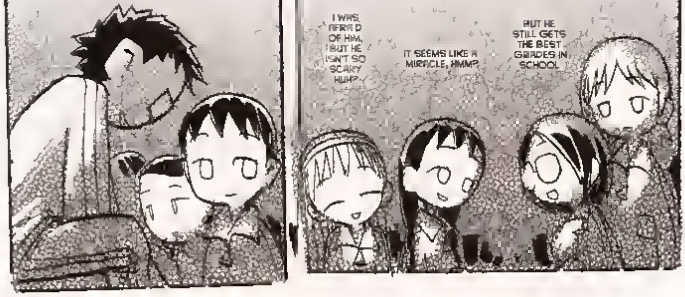
COME TO THINK OF IT, YESTERDAY AT KIRIO'S HOUSE...
...HIS MOM REALLY TOLD HIM OFF!
WOOW!

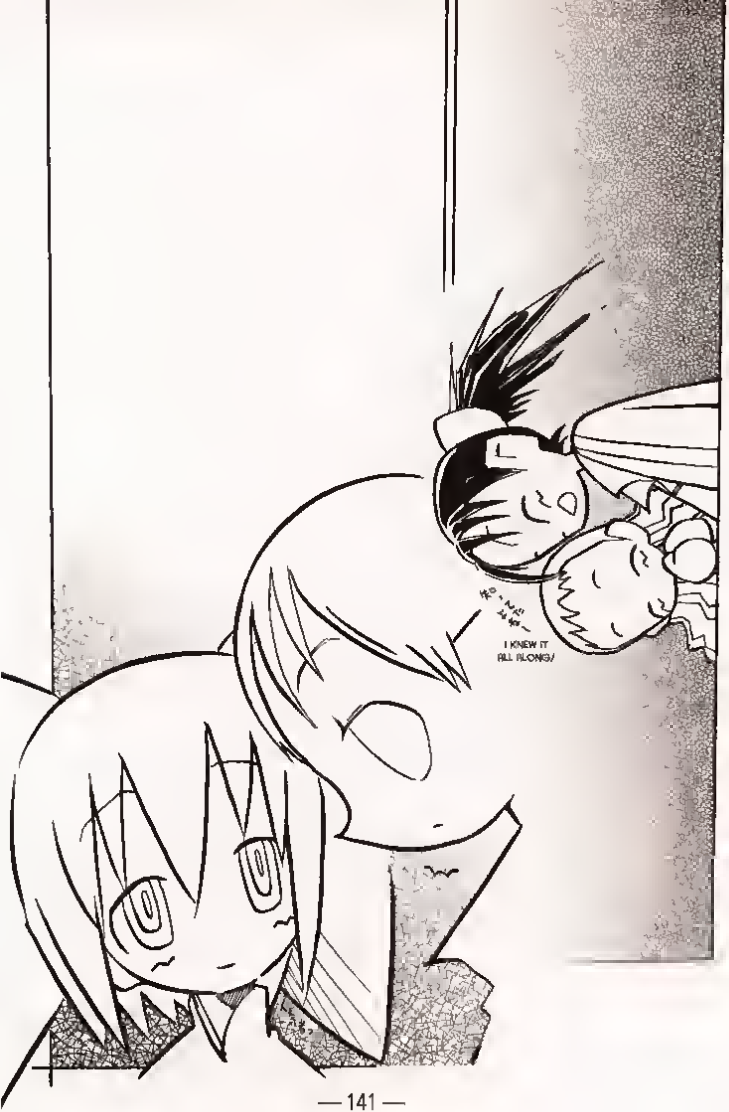

OH,..
NOW THAT'S NEWS.
IT IS? WHY IS IT NEWS?
IT SEEMED REALLY,..
..NORMAL.
.....
WH-
WHO CARES A-BOUT THAT ANY-WAY?


GIRLS CAN CHANGE ON A DIME, HUH?
KIRIO-KUN'S ALWAYS SO COOL AND DIFFICULT TO TALK TO/
BUT THIS MAY CHANGE MY OPINION/
THAT'S INTERESTING/
AWW/ I CAN RELATE/

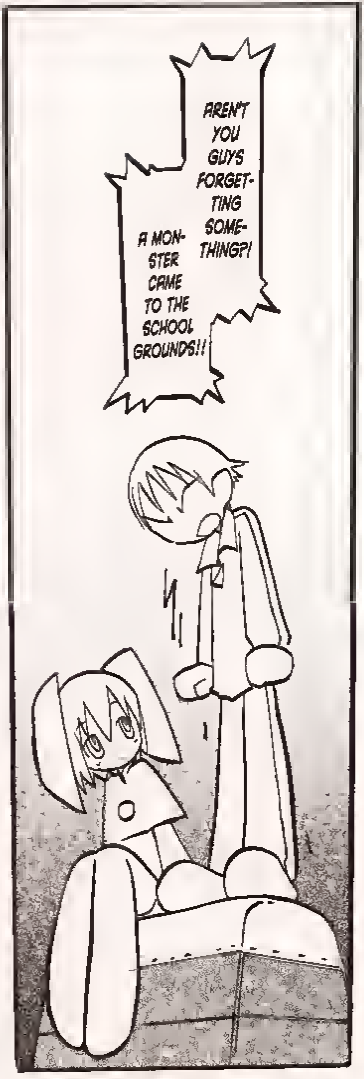
O-OH, SHUT UP/
WHAT KIND OF TALK IS THAT?
COME ON/ DON'T SAY ANY MORE, OKAY?

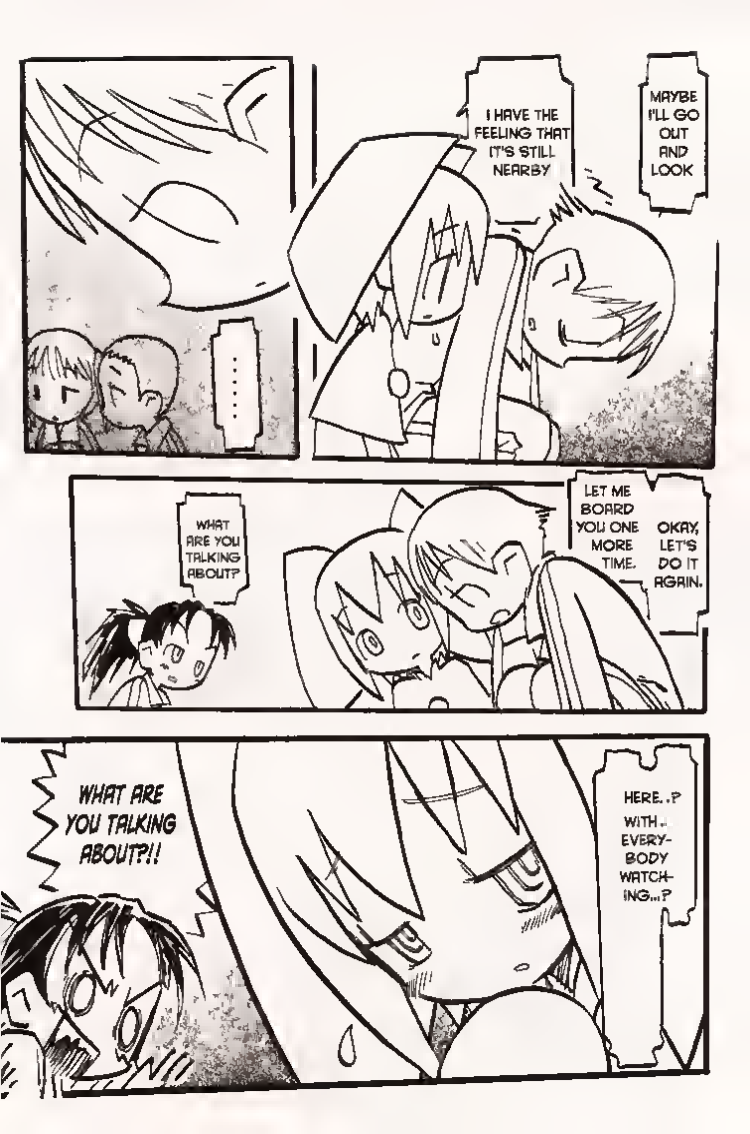

HIS MOM ALWAYS SEEMS SO STRONG, BUT I GUESS IT'S ALL AN ACT/

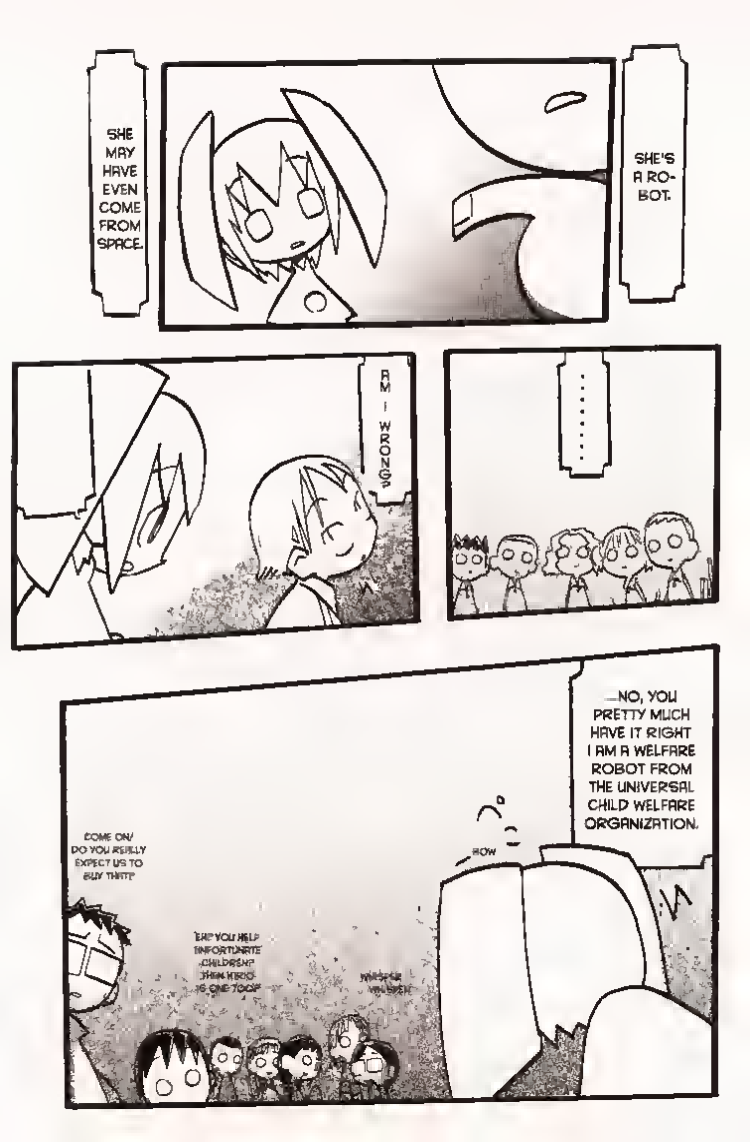

I WAS AFRAID OF HIM, BUT HE ISN'T SO SCARY, HUH?
IT SEEMS LIKE A MIRACLE, HMM?
BUT HE STILL GETS THE BEST GRADES IN SCHOOL

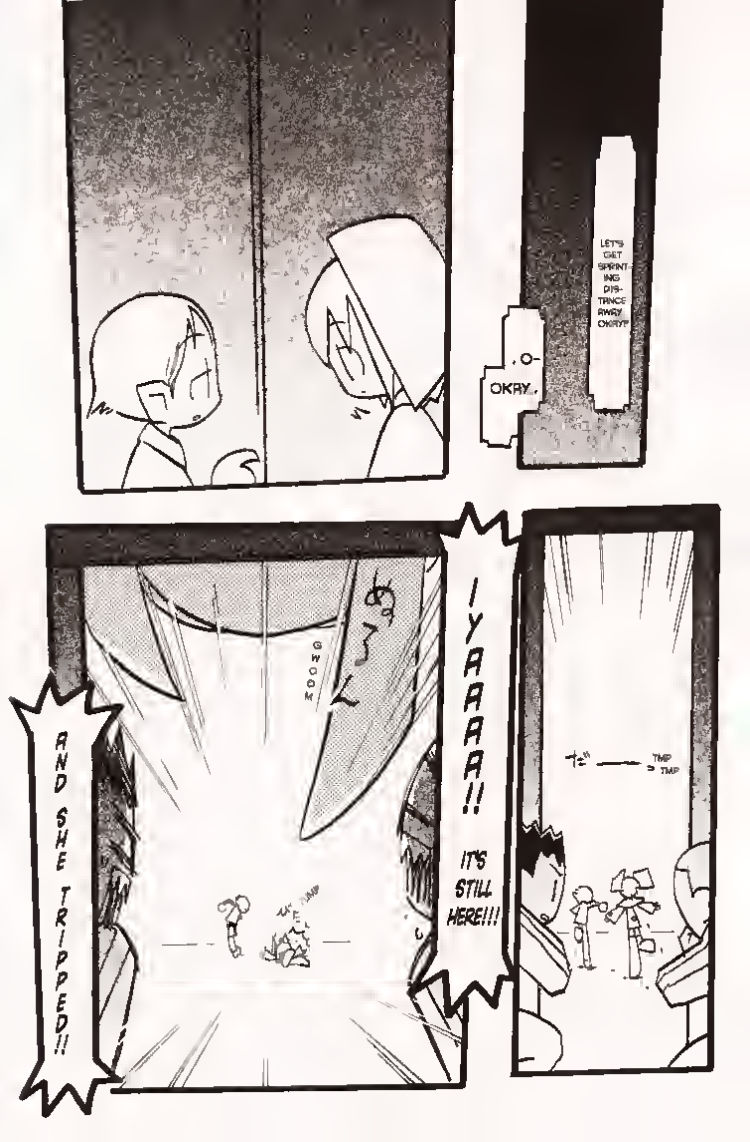

HE-HE-HE-HE~
I KNEW IT ALL ALONG!

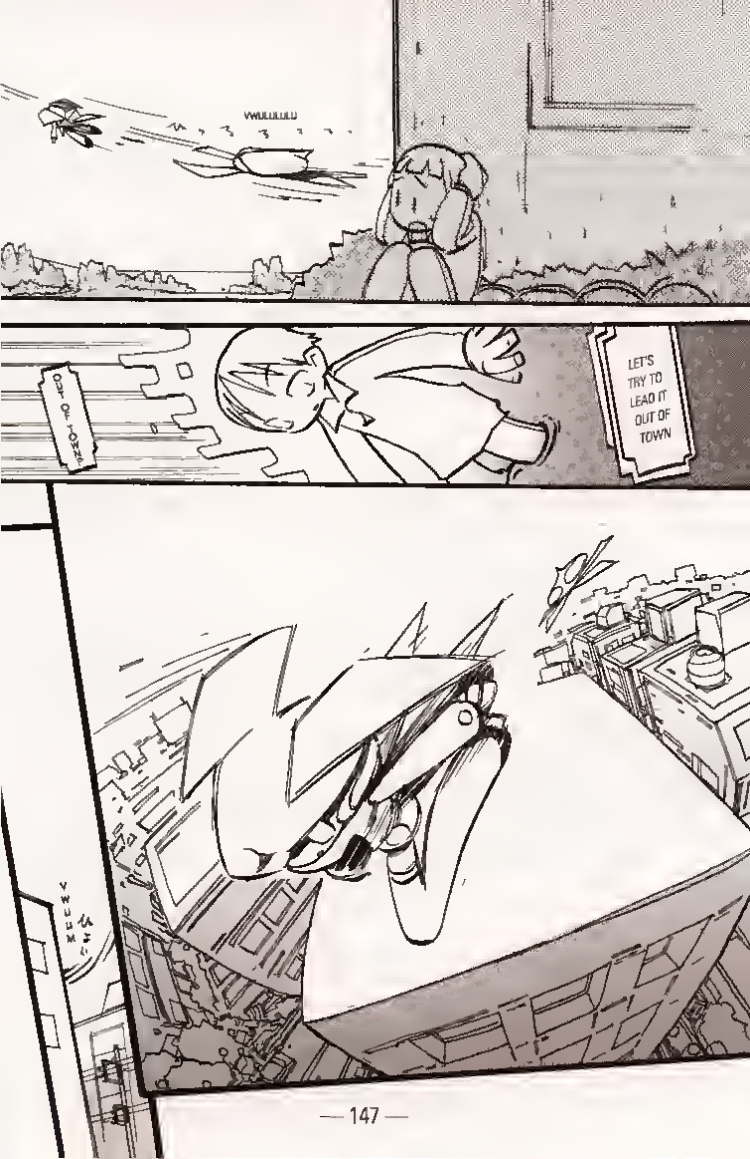
THE SIREN STILL HASN'T SOUND-ED.
BUT IT'S SO QUIET. MAYBE IT WENT AWAY.
I FOR-GOT!


AREN'T YOU GUYS FORGET-TING SOME-THING?!
A MON-STER CAME TO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS!!

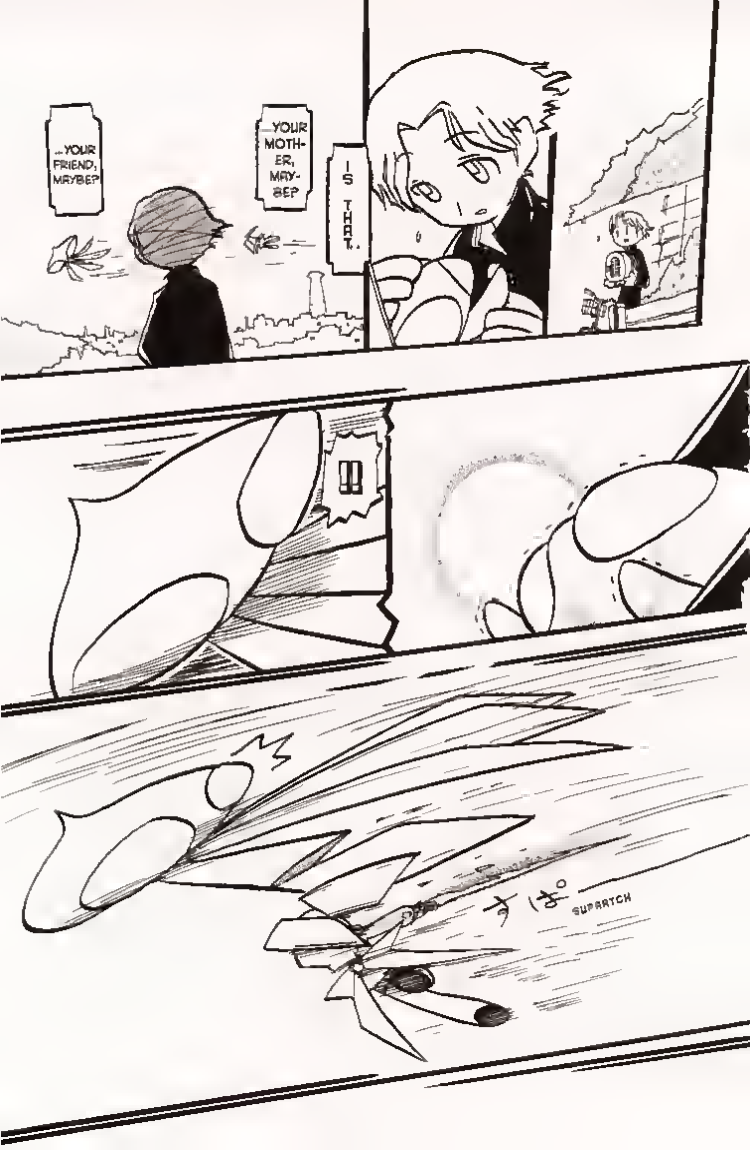

MAYBE I'LL GO OUT AND LOOK
I HAVE THE FEELING THAT IT'S STILL NEARBY
.....
OKAY, LET'S DO IT AGAIN.
LET ME BOARD YOU ONE MORE TIME.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HERE..? WITH.. EVERY-BODY WATCH-ING...?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!!

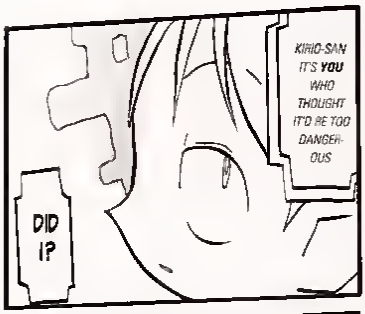

SHE MAY HAVE EVEN COME FROM SPACE.
SHE'S A ROBOT.
AM I WRONG?
.....
—NO, YOU PRETTY MUCH HAVE IT RIGHT I AM A WELFARE ROBOT FROM THE UNIVERSAL CHILD WELFARE ORGANIZATION.
WOW
COME ON! DO YOU REALLY EXPECT US TO BUY THIS?
CAN YOU HELP UNFORTUNATE CHILDREN? THEIR HERO IS ONE TOUGH


LET'S GET SPRINTING DISTANCE AWAY, OKAY?
.O-
OKAY.
TMP TMP
IYAAAA!!
IT'S STILL HERE!!!
BLOCK
AND SHE TRIPPED!!

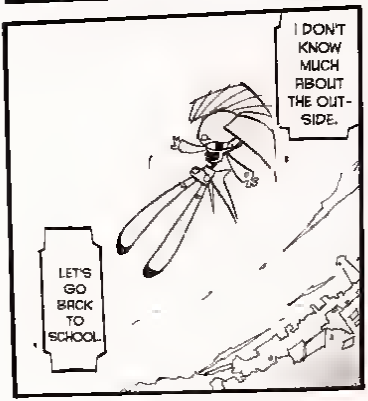

VWUUUUU
OUT OF JOKE
LET'S TRY TO LEAD IT OUT OF TOWN
VRRM

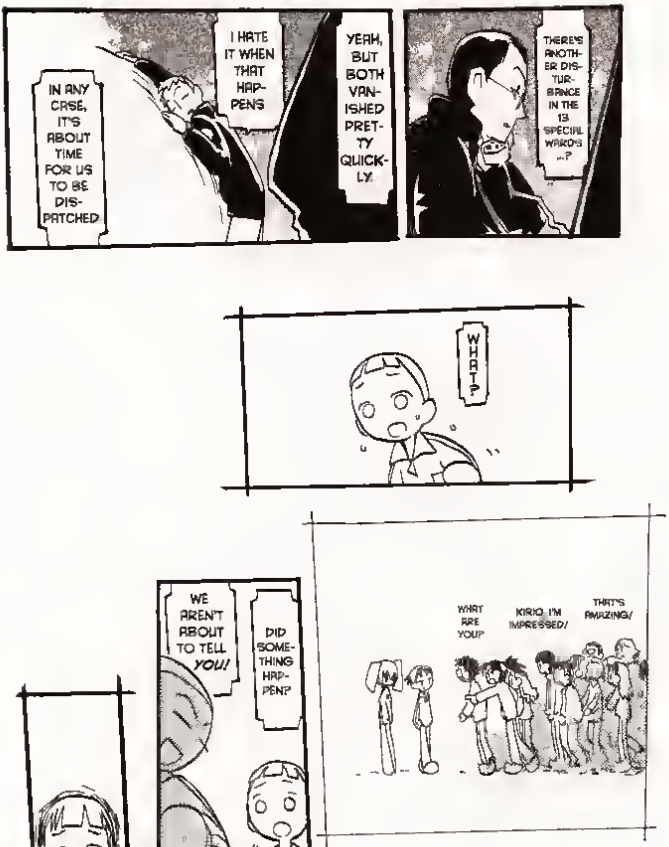
DO YOU WANT A HAND-HOLD?
GULP
THIS IS REAL-LY GROSS!
HMM...

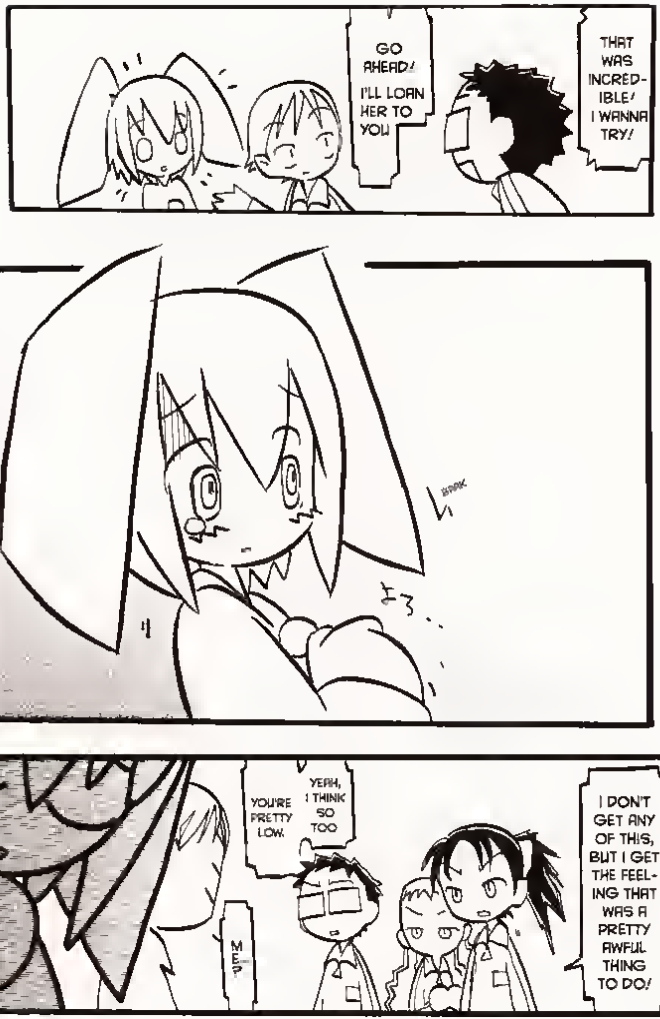

...YOUR FRIEND, MAYBE?
...YOUR MOTHER, MAYBE?
IS THAT...
SUPARTCH

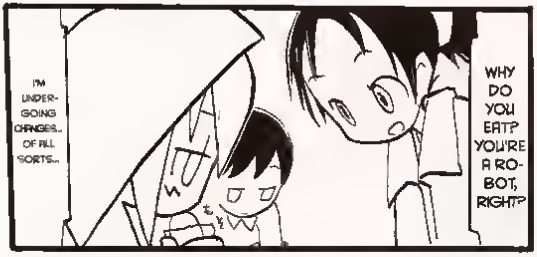

KIRIO-SAN IT'S YOU WHO THOUGHT IT'D BE TOO DANGER-OUS
DID I?

IT'S RUNNING AWAY AND WE DON'T WANT TO CHASE IT TOO FAR.
YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR TUNE.

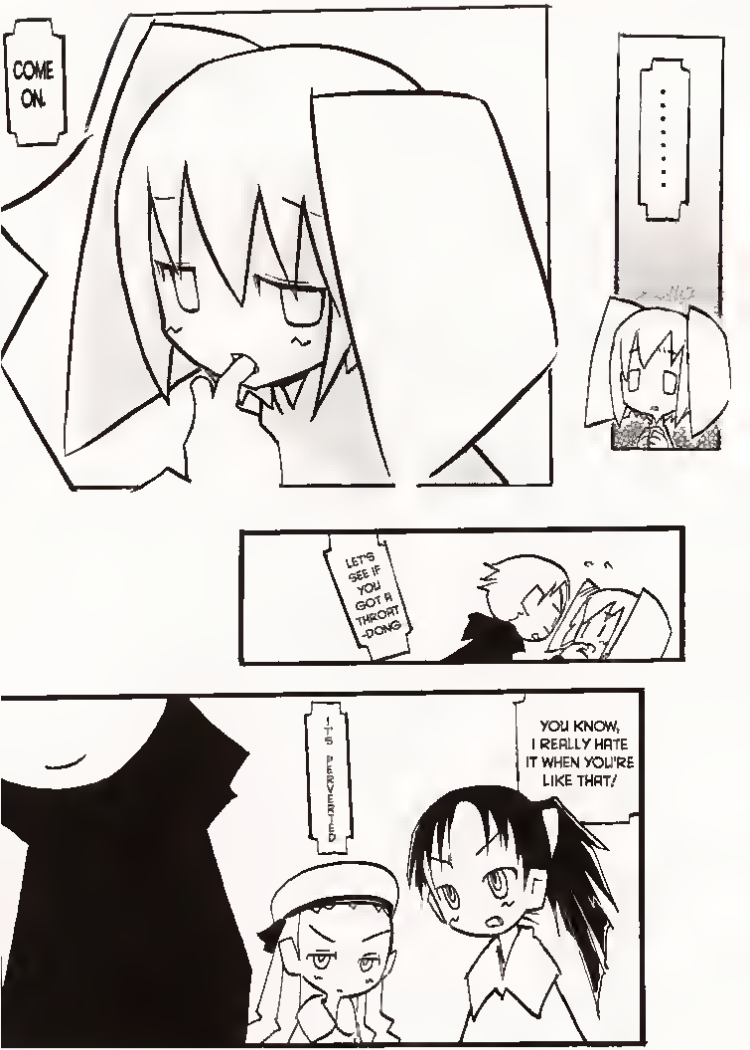

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE OUT-SIDE.
LET'S GO BACK TO SCHOOL.


IN ANY CASE, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR US TO BE DIS-PATCHED.
I HATE IT WHEN THAT HAP-PENS.
YEAH, BUT BOTH VAN-ISHED PRET-TY QUICK-LY.
THERE'S ANOTH-ER DIS-TUR-BANCE IN THE 13 SPECIAL WARDS ...?
WHAT?
WE AREN'T ABOUT TO TELL YOU!
DID SOME-THING HAP-PEN?
WHAT ARE YOU?
KIRIO, I'M IMPRESSED!
THAT'S AMAZING!

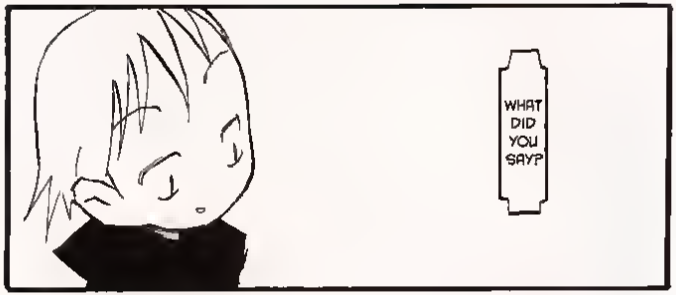

GO AHEAD! I'LL LOAN HER TO YOU
THAT WAS INCRED-IBLE! I WANNA TRY!
MEP
YOU'RE PRETTY LOW.
YEAH, I THINK SO TOO
I DON'T GET ANY OF THIS, BUT I GET THE FEEL-ING THAT WAS A PRETTY AWFUL THING TO DO!


I'M UNDERGOING CHANGES... OF ALL SORTS...
WHY DO YOU EAT? YOU'RE A ROBOT, RIGHT?

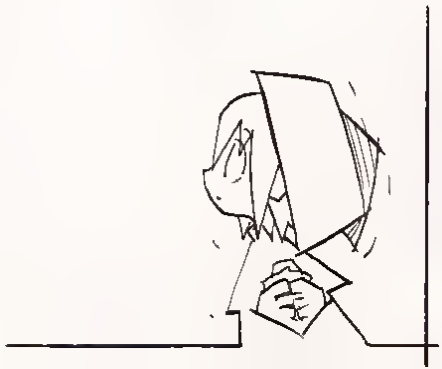
OPEN YOUR MOUTH A SECOND?


COME ON.
.....
LET'S SEE IF YOU GOT A THROAT -DONG
YOU KNOW, I REALLY HATE IT WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THAT!
IS PERVERTED

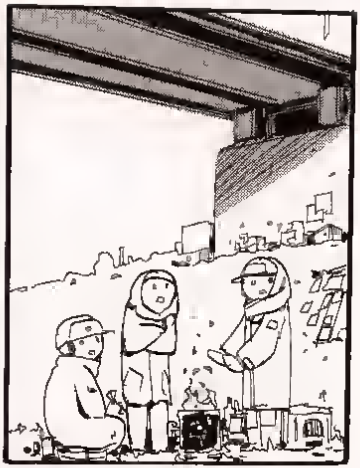
ONLY WHEN YOUR FRIENDS ARE AROUND


WHAT DID YOU SAY?

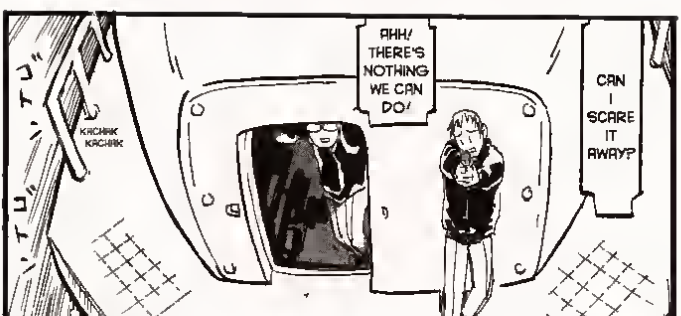
ごとん
KACHAK
ごとん
KACHAK



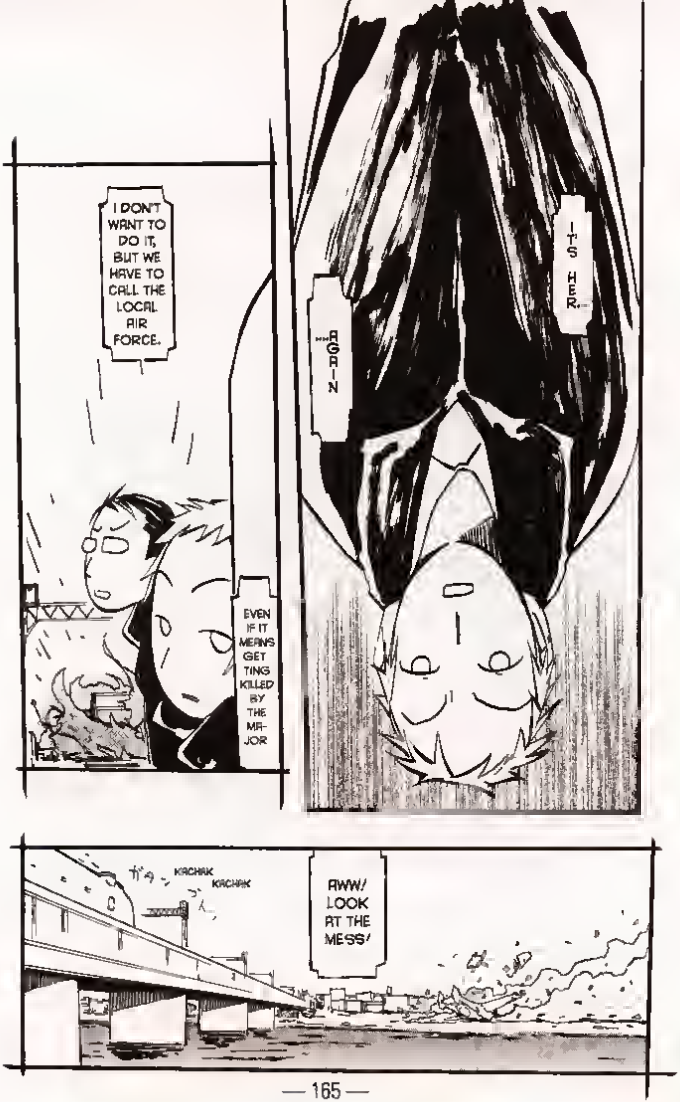
IT'S GOING TO MAKE A CRASH LANDING ON THE EMBANK-MENT BEYOND THE BRIDGE/
A FRENCH TRANS-PORT IS BEING ATTACKED BY ALIENS/
NO/ IF WE GO THERE NOW, OUR CARGO WILL GET ATTACKED–



RWRRK
GOLUUN
GOLUUN

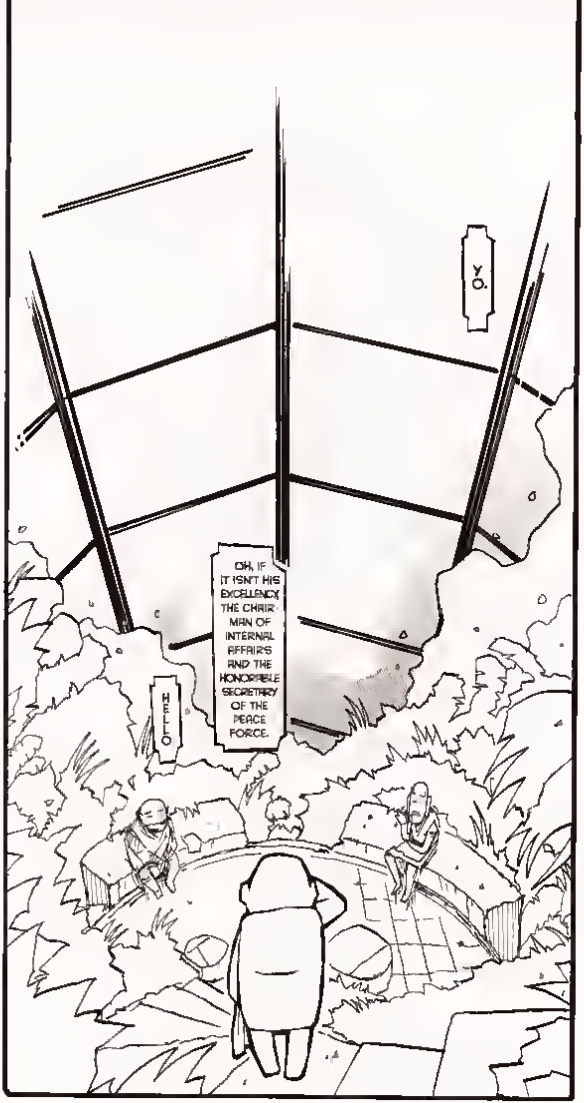

KACHAK KACHAK
AHH! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!
CAN I SCARE IT AWAY?

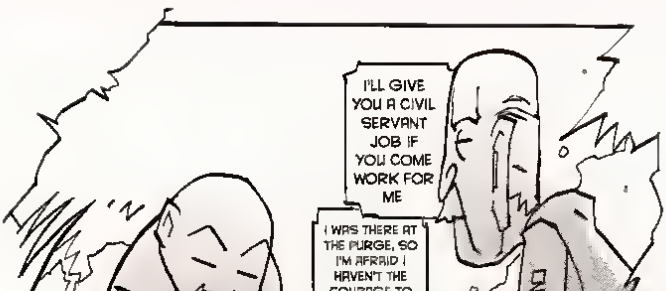
VWOOM


I DON'T WANT TO DO IT, BUT WE HAVE TO CALL THE LOCAL AIR FORCE.
EVEN IF IT MEANS GETTING KILLED BY THE MAJOR
IS HER...
...AGAIN
KACHAK KACHAK
AWW! LOOK AT THE MESS!

H-S H-S
SHUDDER

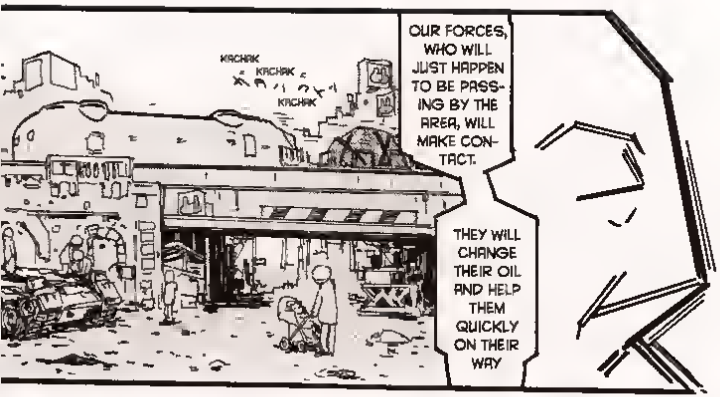
#8

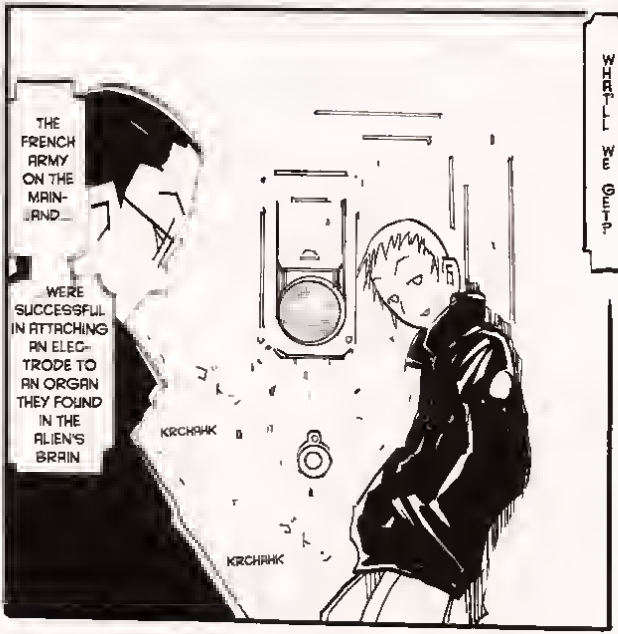

Y.O.
OH, IF IT ISN'T HIS EXCELLENCY, THE CHAIRMAN OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF THE PEACE FORCE.
HELLO


I'LL GIVE YOU A CIVIL SERVANT JOB IF YOU COME WORK FOR ME
I WAS THERE AT THE PURGE, SO I'M AFRAID I HAVEN'T THE COURAGE TO DON THAT CROWN.

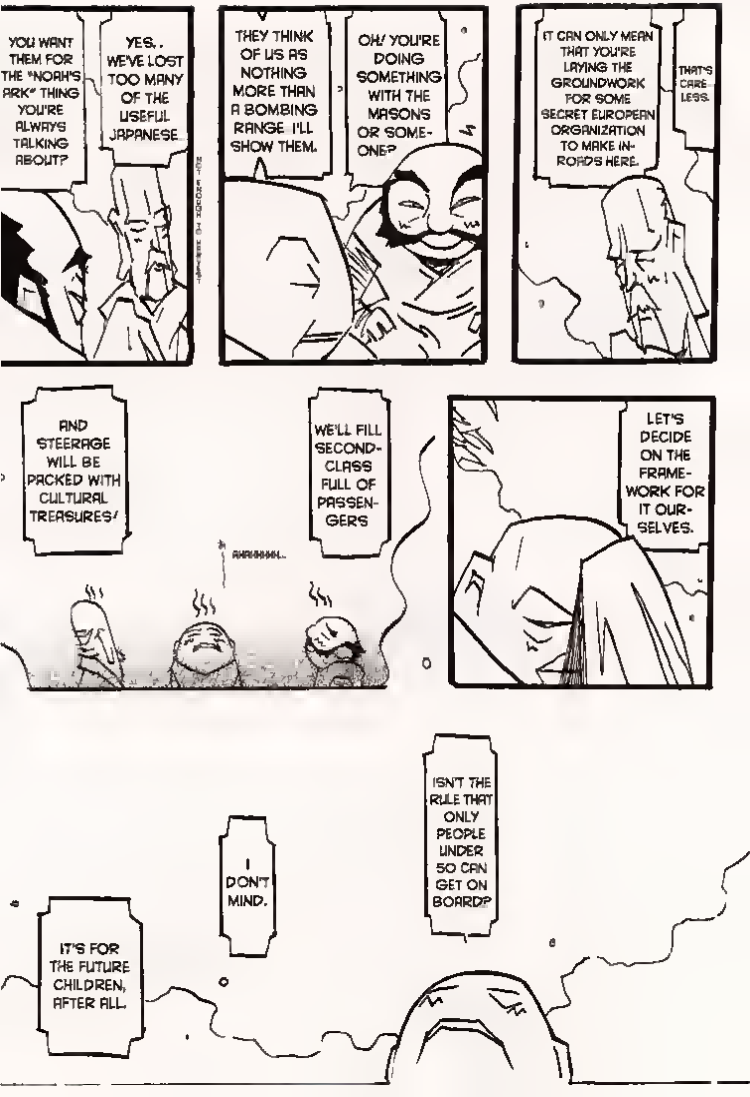
DON'T BLAME HIM HE'S AFRAID WHEN HE ISN'T SURROUNDED BY HIS TROOPS.
LET'S NOT SPOUT GOSSIP THAT WOULD AID SPECIAL SERVICES.

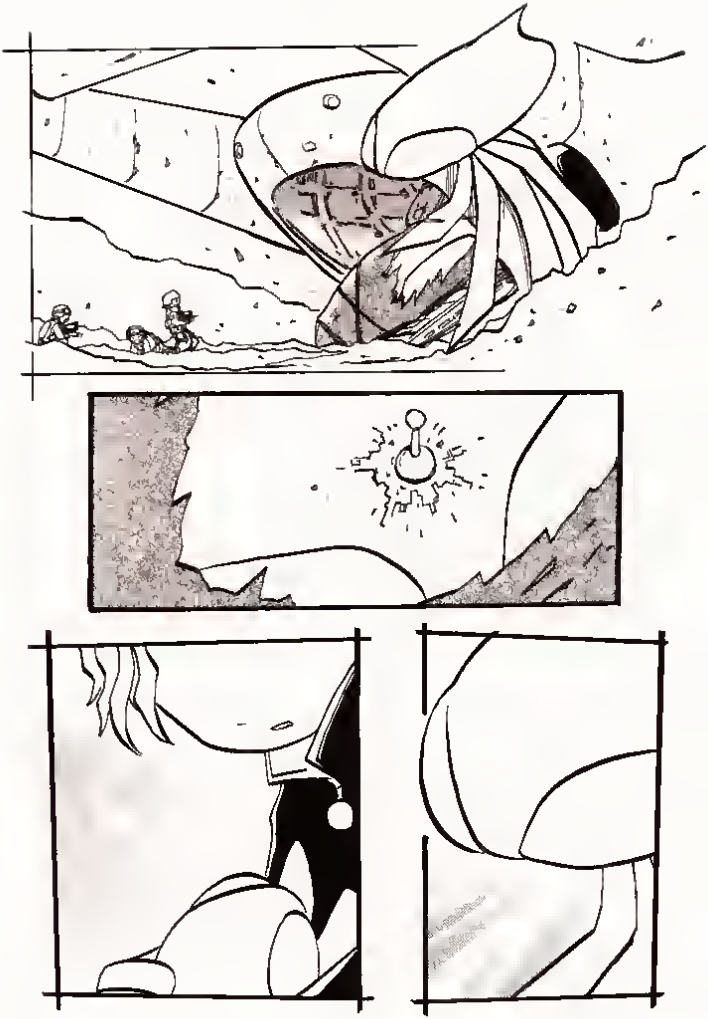
THEN, LET'S HAVE A SUMMARY OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN TODAY
THE TRANSPORT HARBORING THE U.N. SPECIAL INVESTIGATION WILL HAVE ENGINE TROUBLE AND WILL NEED TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AT AN AIRFIELD JUST OUTSIDE THE SPECIAL WARD'S

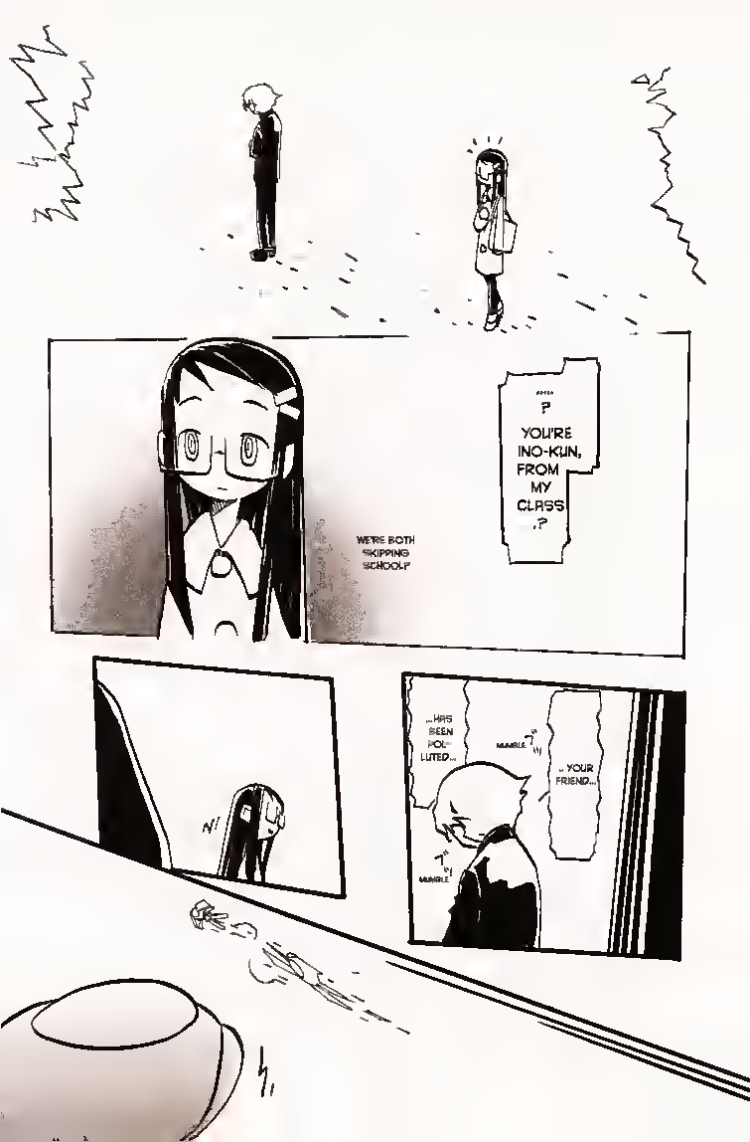

KRCHAK
KRCHAK
KRCHAK
OUR FORCES, WHO WILL JUST HAPPEN TO BE PASSING BY THE AREA, WILL MAKE CONTACT.
THEY WILL CHANGE THEIR OIL AND HELP THEM QUICKLY ON THEIR WAY


HHH?
WHAT'LL WE GET?
THE FRENCH ARMY ON THE MAIN-LAND...
...WERE SUCCESSFUL IN ATTACHING AN ELEC-TRODE TO AN ORGAN THEY FOUND IN THE ALIEN'S BRAIN
KRCHAHK
KRCHAHK

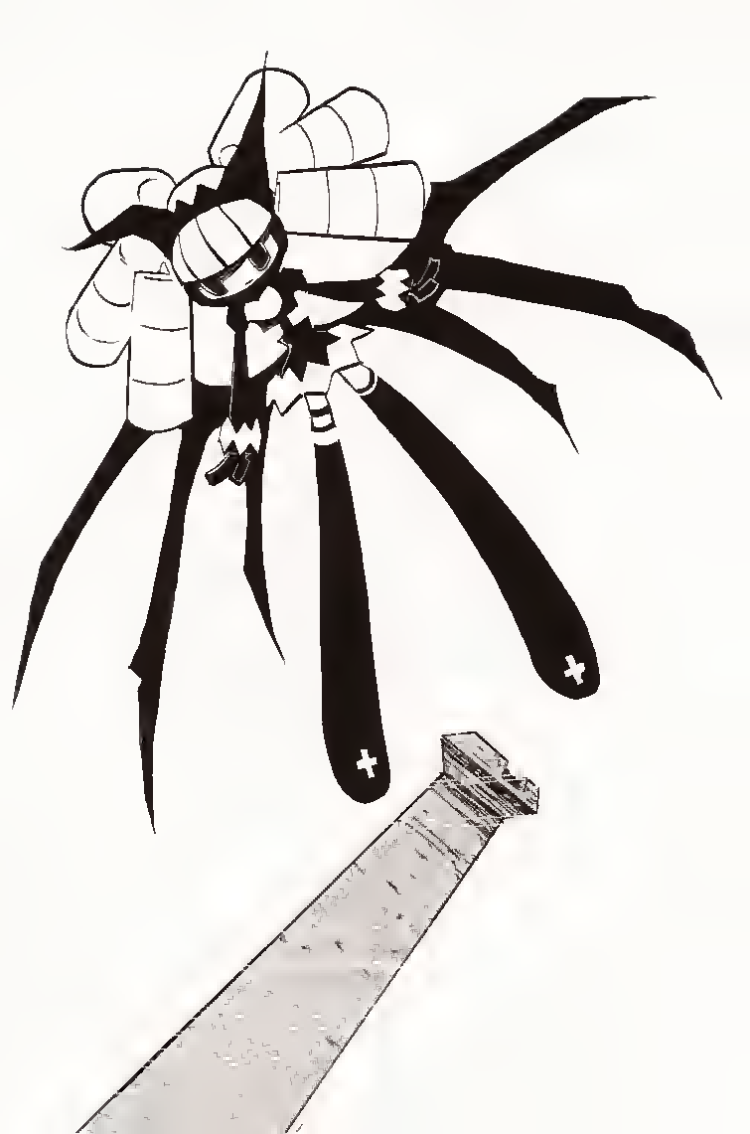
KACHAK-KACHAK
IF THAT'S TRUE... THEN THE FRENCHIES HAVE A MUCH BETTER JOB THAN THE MAJOR DOES.
SO WE'RE DOING ANOTHER TRADE FOR "HER LADY-SHIP'S" CUTE LITTLE GIRLS.
THEY HAVEN'T GOTTEN BEYOND THAT, THOUGH.
I WOULDN'T SAY IT CONTROLS THEM, BUT IT MAKES THEM VERY DOCILE
REALLY?
KACHAK-KACHAK
THE DOLLS SEEM LIKE THEY'RE BUILT FOR GIRLS.
KACHAK
IF I GOTTA "STEP OUT" WITH ONE I'D RATHER IT WERE THE ALIENS.
KACHAK
HUH? WHY'S THAT?
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
BUT YOU MAY BE ON TO SOMETHING
HM...


YOU WANT THEM FOR THE "NOAH'S ARK" THING YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT?
YES.. WE'VE LOST TOO MANY OF THE USEFUL JAPANESE.
THEY THINK OF US AS NOTHING MORE THAN A BOMBING RANGE. I'LL SHOW THEM.
OH! YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING WITH THE MASONS OR SOMEONE?
IT CAN ONLY MEAN THAT YOU'RE LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR SOME SECRET EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION TO MAKE INROADS HERE.
THAT'S CARELESS.
AND STEERAGE WILL BE PACKED WITH CULTURAL TREASURES!
WE'LL FILL SECOND-CLASS FULL OF PASSENGERS
AHHHHH..
LET'S DECIDE ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR IT OURSELVES.
ISN'T THE RULE THAT ONLY PEOPLE UNDER 50 CAN GET ON BOARD?
I DON'T MIND.
IT'S FOR THE FUTURE CHILDREN, AFTER ALL.

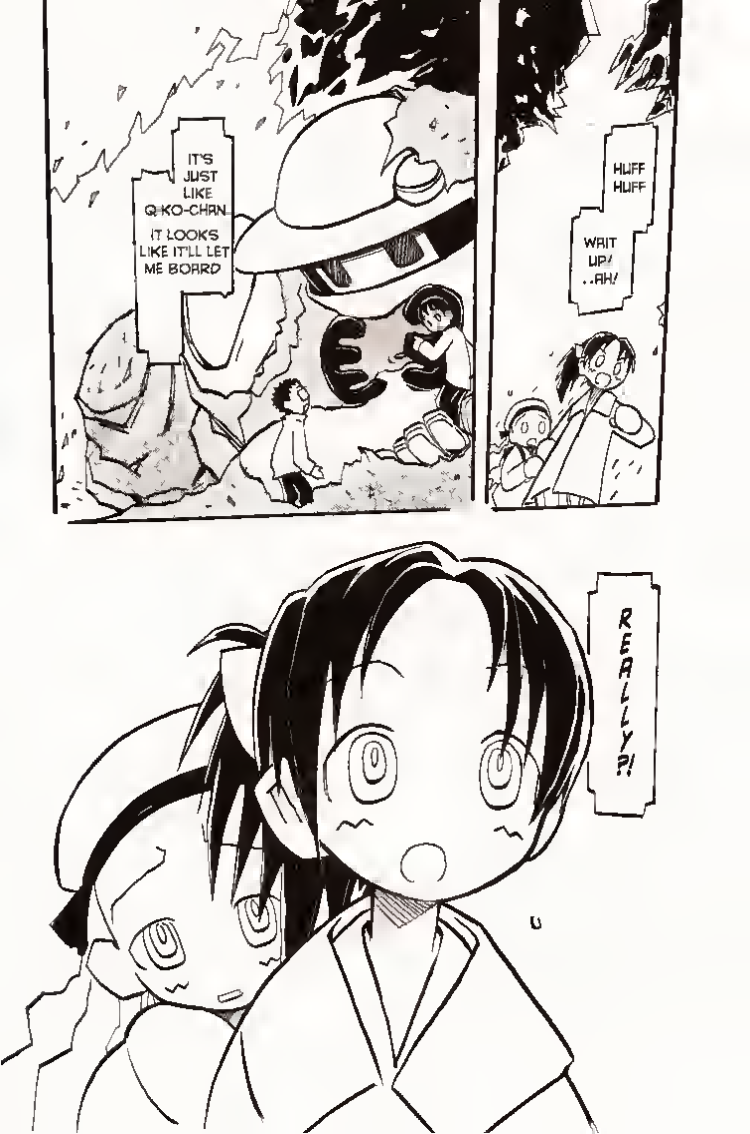



"...?
YOU'RE INO-KUN, FROM MY CLASS ..?
WE'RE BOTH SKIPPING SCHOOL?
...HAS BEEN POL-LUTED...
MUMBLE
...YOUR FRIEND...
MUMBLE

I GUESS IT WASN'T JUST ONE.
ONCE WE'RE BEYOND THE RIVER WE'LL BE OUT OF THE SPECIAL WARD'S
IS THAT A PROBLEM FOR YOU?
I'VE HEARD THAT IF I LEAVE, I CAN'T COME BACK.
THAT'S RIGHT!
SHE'S ONE OF YOUR KIND, RIGHT?
WE'RE FLYING, SO WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN.
EH?!



IT'S ONE OF THE BLACK SERIES! IF SOMEBODY IS ON BOARD, THIS COULD BE A PROBLEM!
!?
I'M FLYING! WAA?
UWA?
I DON'T GET IT. ARE THEY STRONG?
THOSE TYPES TAKE ON A DIFFEHENT KIND OF TRANSFOR MATION!
IT'S A TRAP!

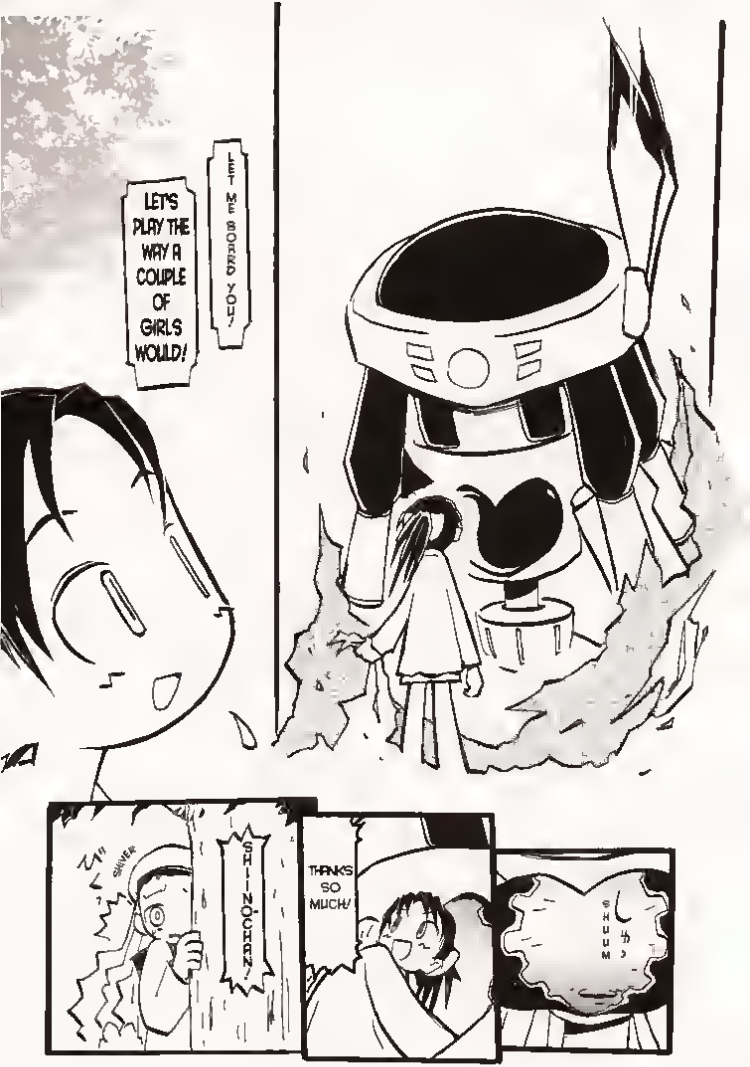

IT'S JUST LIKE Q-KO-CHAN.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL LET ME BOARD
HUFF HUFF
WAIT UP! ..AH!
REALLY?!

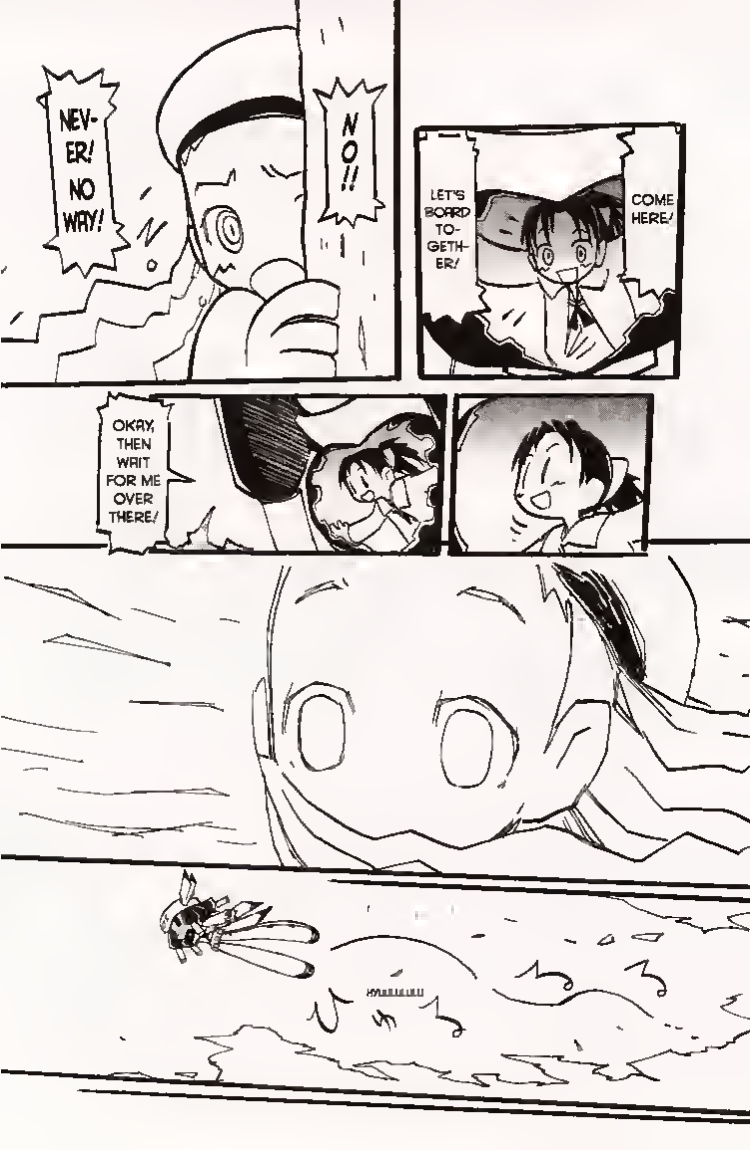
IN THE CONFUSION GENERATED WHEN THE COUNTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE CRUMBLED, A FASCIST PARTY BEARING THE MARK OF THE CUTE BUNNY QUIETLY TOOK POWER. AND WITH ONE PARTY RULE, BEGAN TO RUN THE COUNTRY AS THEY SAW FIT. THEY DISPATCHED A LARGE ARMY TO THE CONTINENT WITH FORCED RECRUITMENT OF ANYONE IN JOBS THAT WERE LESS THAN VITAL TO THE COUNTRY. THOSE NEW SOLDIERS NEVER RETURNED. WITHOUT REGARD FOR LOCAL OPINIONS AND CONDITIONS, THE REGIME CONDUCTED WHAT THEY CALLED THE GLORIOUS PURGE. CORRUPT ADMINISTRATORS OOXX MAINTAINED RULE. ALL OTHERS WERE SHOWN TO THE GUILLOTINE. IN A SHORT CIVIL WAR, THE POPULATION WAS GREATLY DECREASED. NOW THE AIR IN THE HEART OF THE CITY IS FRESH, AND THE LUCKY CHILDREN OF THE SPECIAL WARDS GROW UP QUICKLY.

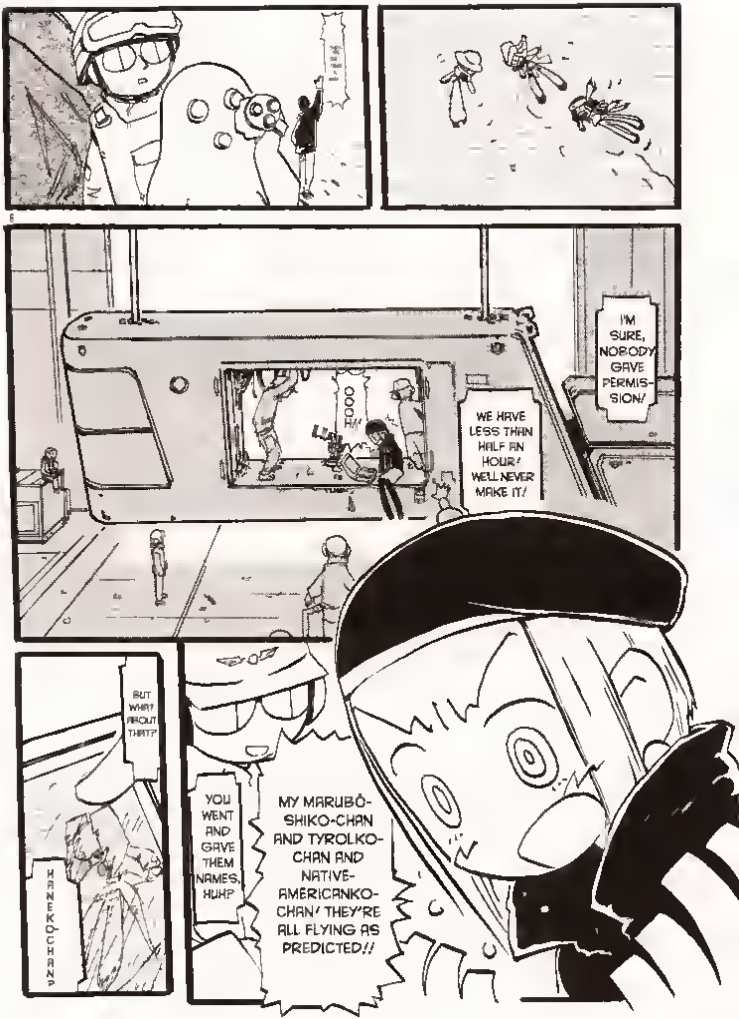
#9

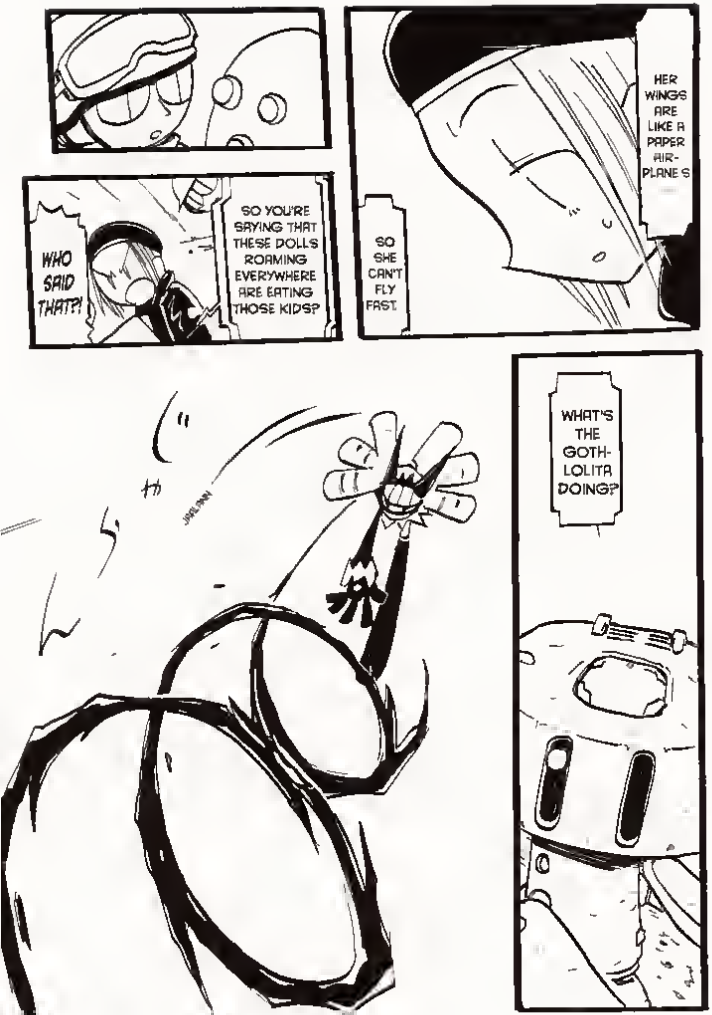
UN
TIME
HM?
AT LEAST IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE I WAS STERLING IT.
IT'S NOT WITH-OUT LEAVE!
I SAID PLEASE DON'T USE BUCKET MAN MECHS WITHOUT LERVE FROM THE REGION THAT OWNS IT!
AN EXCELLENT MAN IS PILOTING IT, SO DON'T WORRY! IT ISN'T LIKE YOU BROUGHT IT HERE YOURSELF, SO JUST LEAVE THIS TO US!

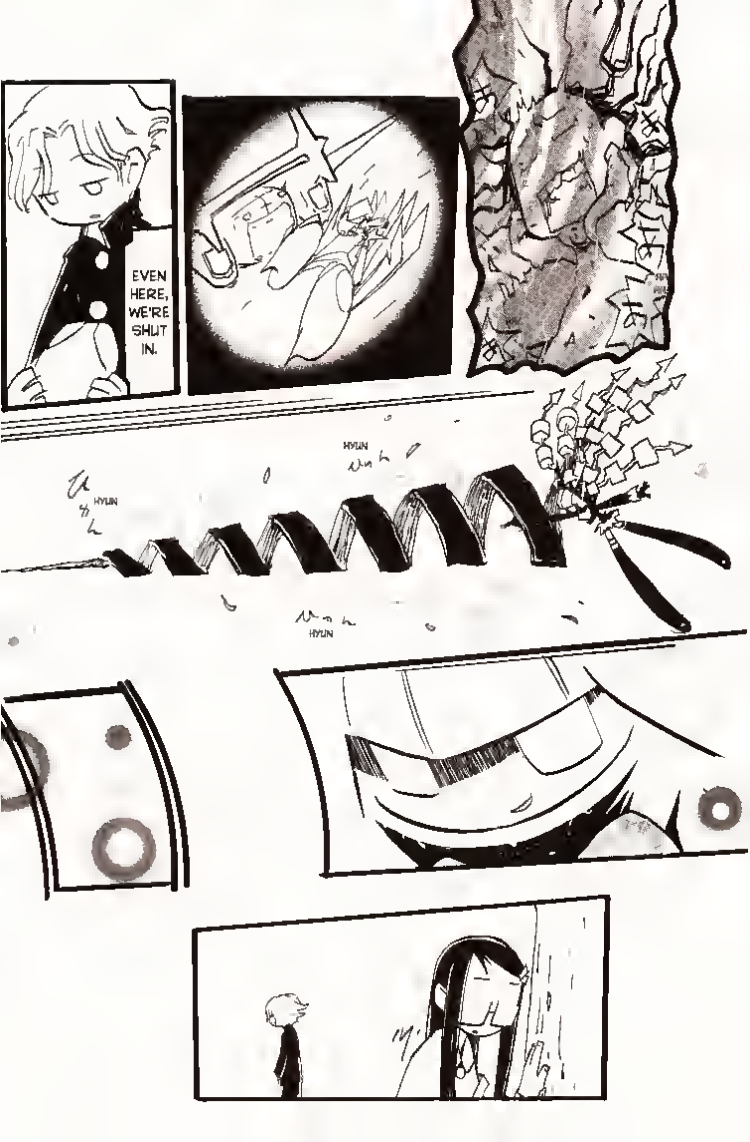
FLAWIIR
AHH... UM...
PHEW...
FOV 03830 ME -HH!
WAIT FOR ME!
HEEEY!
VLIEU
THANK YOU!

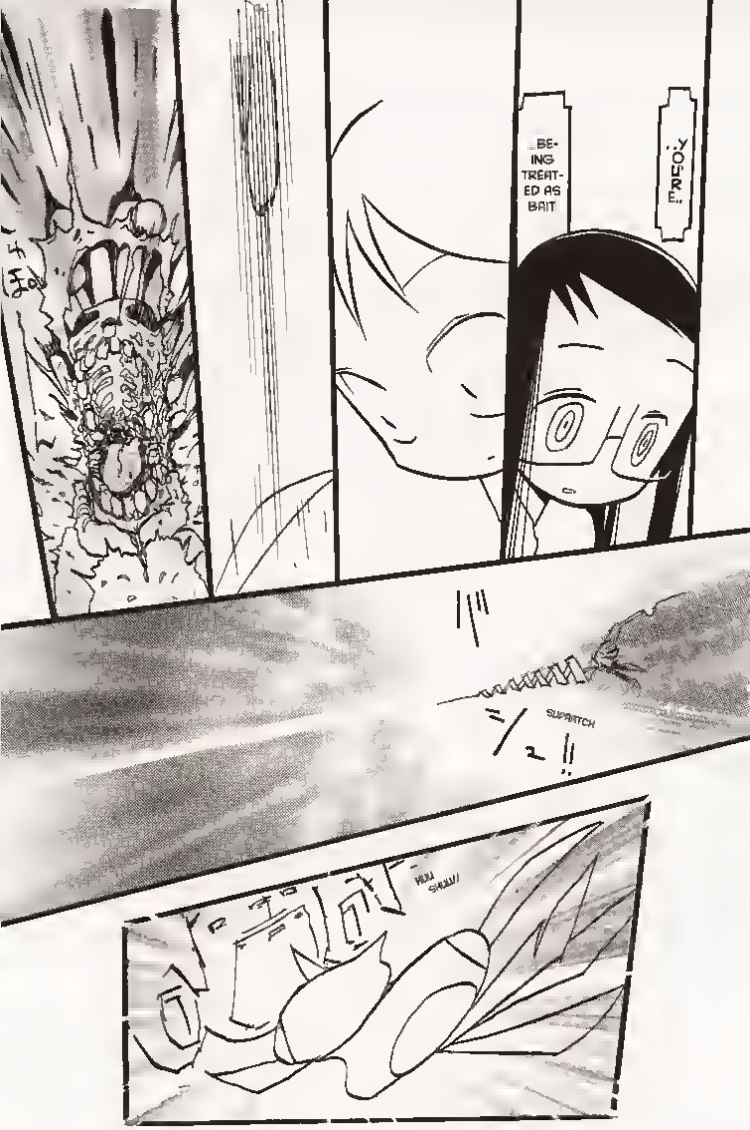

LET'S PLAY THE WAY A COUPLE OF GIRLS WOULD!
LET ME BORED YOU!
SHUUM
THANKS SO MUCH!
SHINOCHIN!
SHIVER

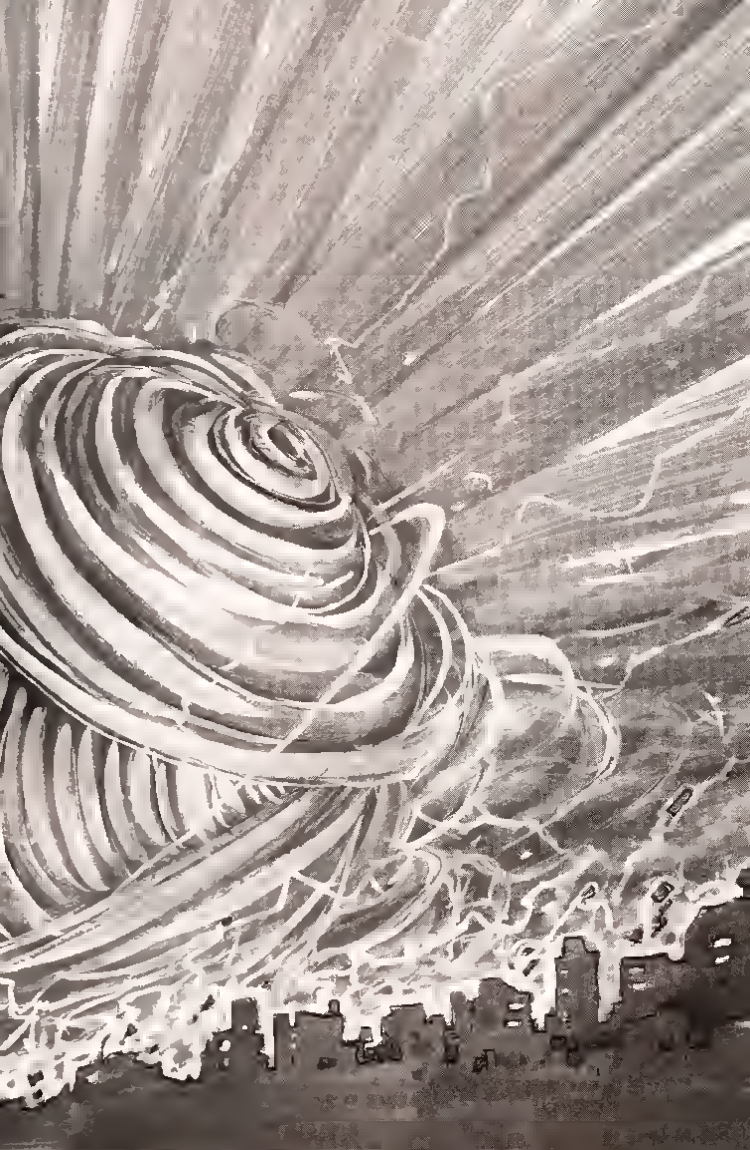

NEV-
ER!
NO
WAY!
NO!!
LET'S
BOARD
TO-
GETH-
ER!
COME
HERE!
OKAY,
THEN
WAIT
FOR ME
OVER
THERE!


I'M SURE, NOBODY GAVE PERMISSION!
WE HAVE LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR! WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
MY MARUBÔ-SHIKO-CHAN AND TYROLKO-CHAN AND NATIVE-AMERICANKO-CHAN! THEY'RE ALL FLYING AS PREDICTED!!
YOU WENT AND GAVE THEM NAMES, HUH?
BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT?
HANEKOCHANS?


HER WINGS ARE LIKE A PAPER AIR-PLANE'S
SO SHE CAN'T FLY FAST.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THESE DOLL'S ROAMING EVERYWHERE ARE EATING THOSE KIDS?
WHO SAID THAT?!
WHAT'S THE GOTH-LOLITA DOING?
JREUNH

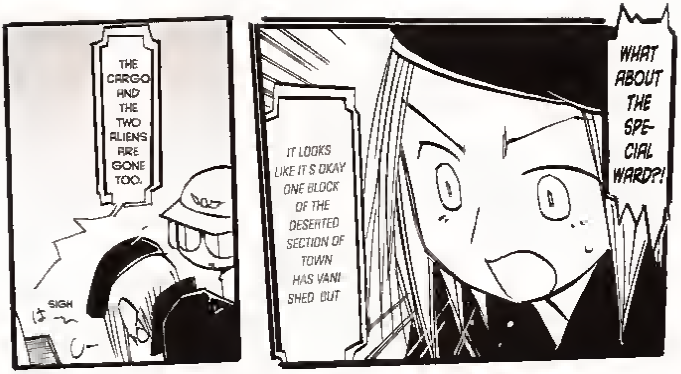

EVEN HERE, WE'RE SHUT IN.
HYUN
HYUN
HYUN

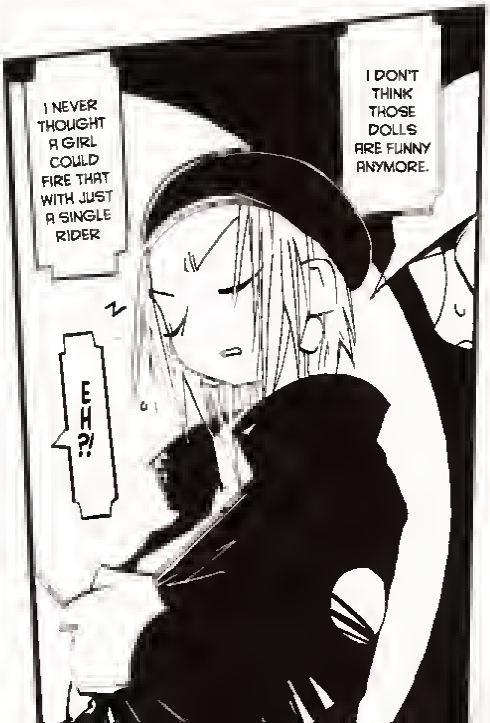

...BE-
ING
TREAT-
ED AS
BAIT
I'M SO...!
SUPRITCH
HUH
SKULL!



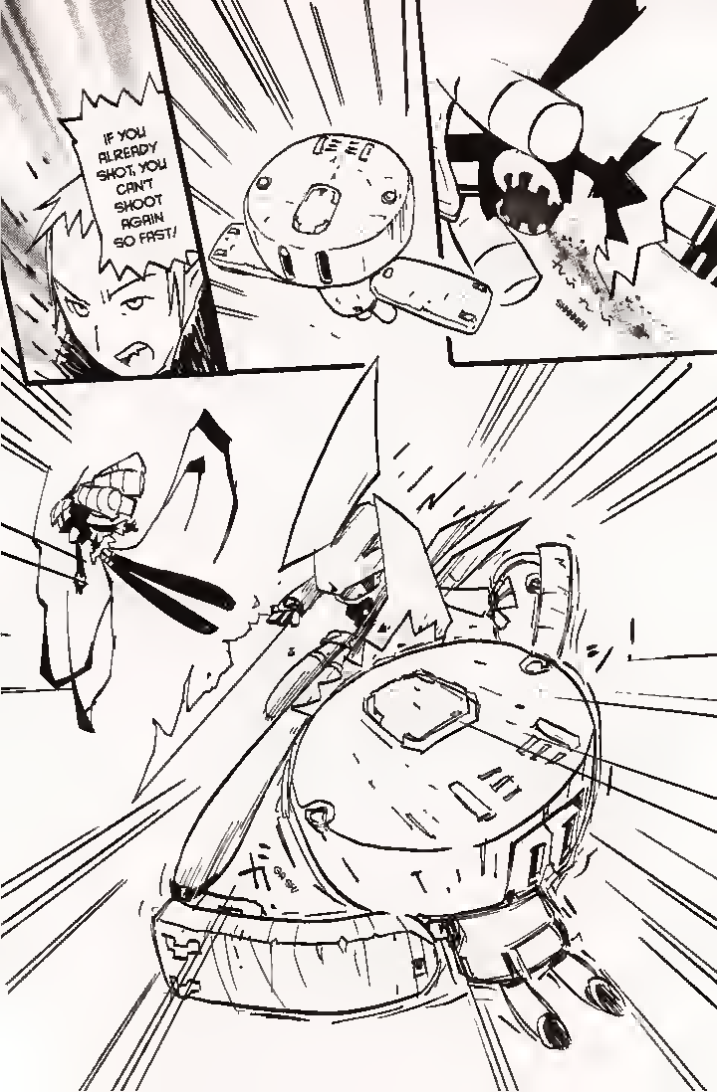
AH!
ZZT
IT'S EERILY WARM.
THAT'S THE CLOUD OF A PURE BOMB.
CAP-TAIN !!
THERE'S MORE WIND UP HERE THAN I THOUGHT.
YEAH...
THIS ISN'T TOO BIG AN EX-PLO-SION.
SINCE WE'RE NOT IN THE CLOUD, WE SHOULD BE OKAY
IN-SIDE, IT'S IN-STANT DEATH.

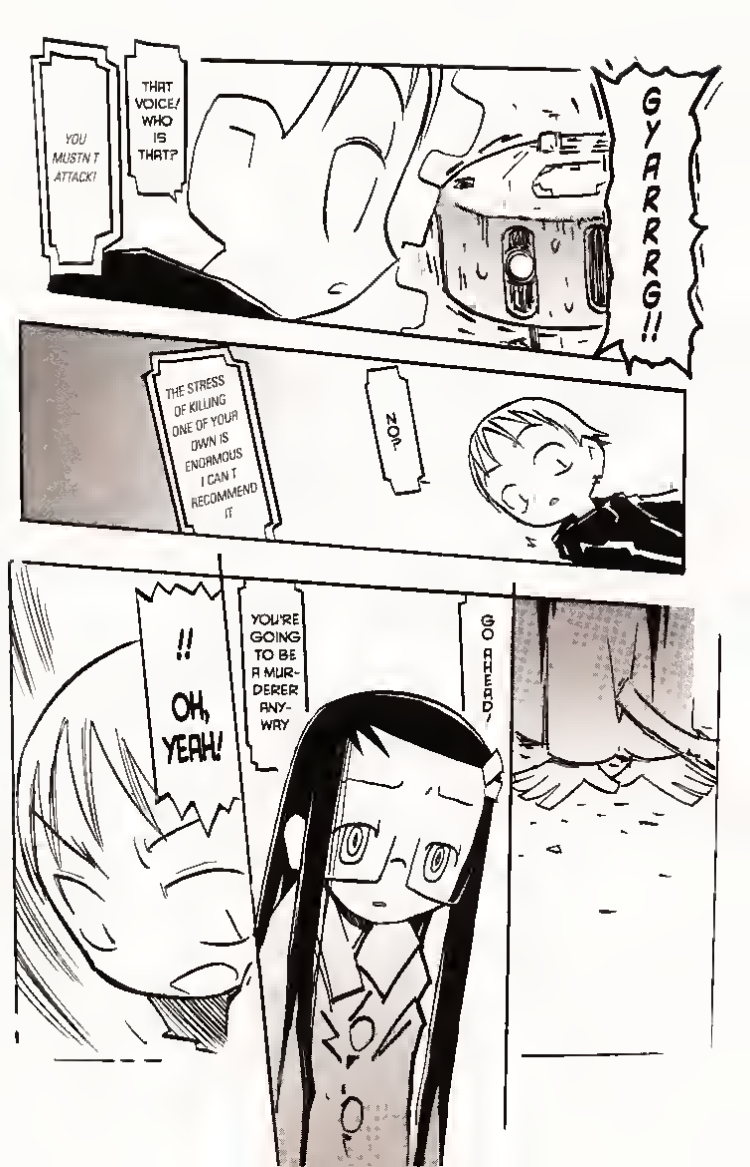
FWOOO
?
?
SUMI
CHI-

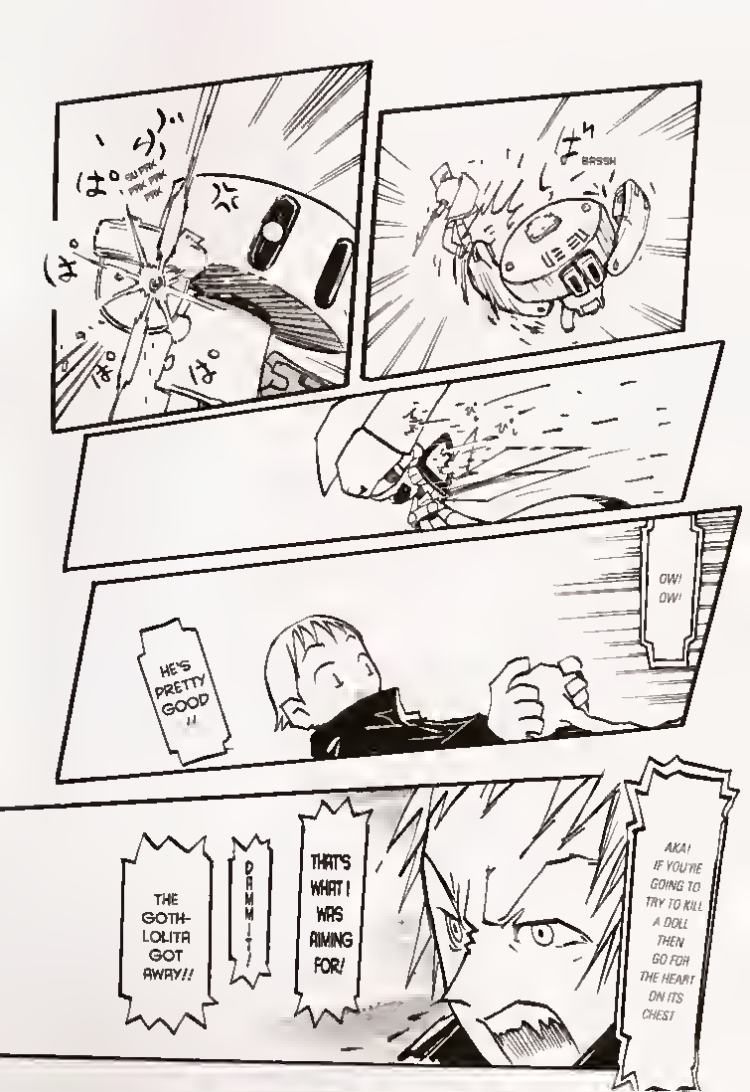

THE CARGO AND THE TWO ALIENS ARE GONE TOO.
SIGH
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S OKAY ONE BLOCK OF THE DESERTED SECTION OF TOWN HAS VANISHED. BUT
WHAT ABOUT THE SPECIAL WARD?!


I NEVER THOUGHT A GIRL COULD FIRE THAT WITH JUST A SINGLE RIDER
EH?!
I DON'T THINK THOSE DOLLS ARE FUNNY ANYMORE.

TWO TYPES OF ALIENS ARE FIGHTING EACH OTHER ON EARTH. WE WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM BOTH, BUT WE JUST CAN'T... WHY NOT...?
IT ISN'T REALLY A "WHAT." IT'S THE ALIENS.
HEY, MR SOLDIER... WHAT COUNTRY IS AT-TACKING US ANY-WAY?
THEY HAVE DIVINE MAIDEN'S ROBES ENGINES TOO SO THE PURE BOMBS WERE THE CIRCLE-C DOLLS ALL ALONG?
THAT'S WHAT I HEAR. THERE WAS A LEAK FROM THE DOLLS A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
THANK GOD IT HIT AN ABANDONED PART!
IT HAS A DIAMETER OF 500M!
ZZT
AH!
THAT'S AMAZING!
PEOPLE CAN TALK TO THEM?


IF YOU ALREADY SHOT, YOU CAN'T SHOOT AGAIN SO FAST!
SHHHH!

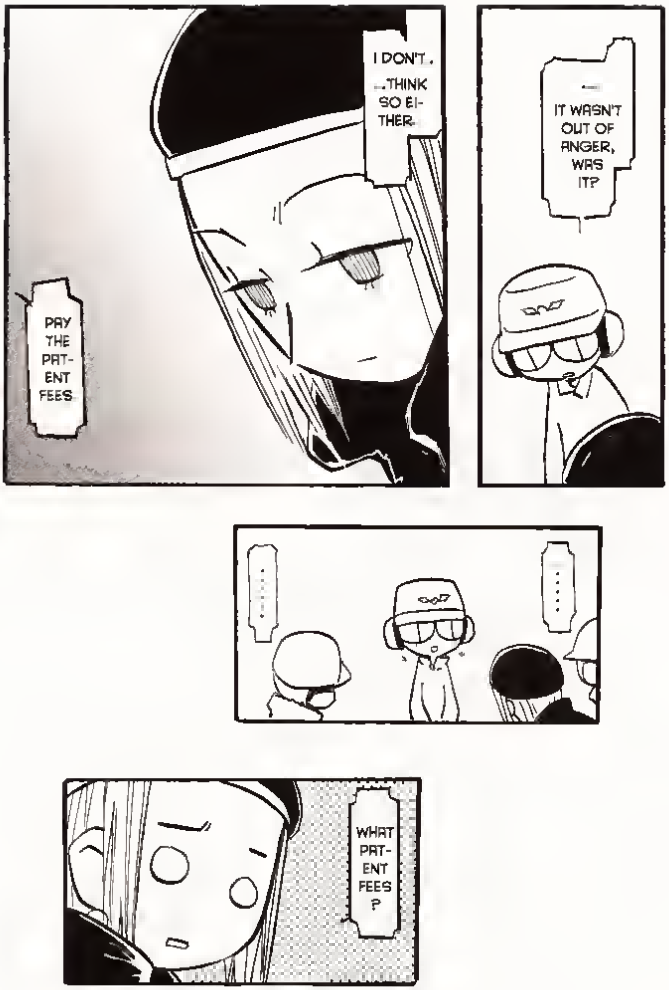

GYARRRG!!
THAT VOICE! WHO IS THAT?
YOU MUSTN'T ATTACK!
ZOK
THE STRESS OF KILLING ONE OF YOUR OWN IS ENORMOUS I CAN'T RECOMMEND IT
GO AHEAD!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE A MURDERER ANYWAY
!! OH, YEAH!

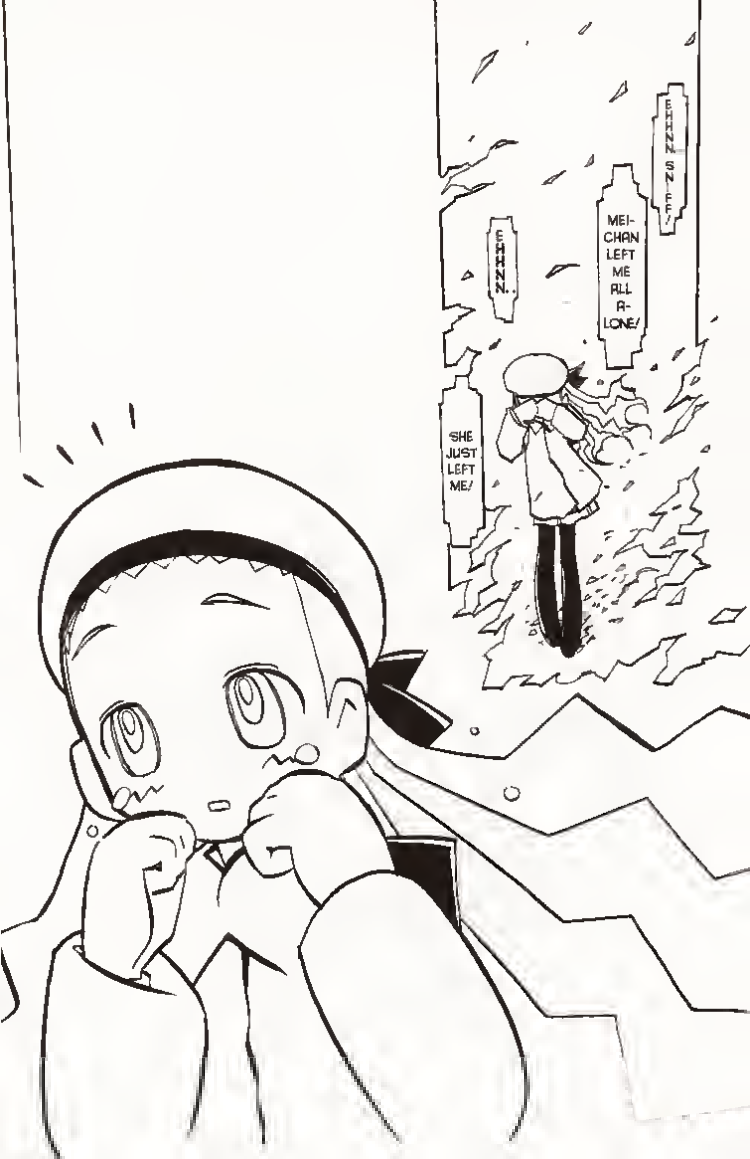

GU PAN PAN PAN PAN
BASSH
OW! OW!
HE'S PRETTY GOOD !!
AKA! IF YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO KILL A DOLL THEN GO FOR THE HEART ON ITS CHEST
THAT'S WHAT I WAS AIMING FOR!
DAMN!!
THE GOTH-LOLITA GOT AWAY!!

I DON'T KNOW WHO WAS THE FIRST TO MAKE CONTACT
BUT THE ALIENS PLANTED WAY TOO MANY PURE BOMBS ON THE MAINLAND
ALL OF THE GIRLS I FOUND WERE ALREADY ASLEEP
THE DOLLS WERE ALREADY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THEM.
THAT ISN'T THE ORDER IN WHICH I HEARD IT.

NO!!
IT'S TOO LATE. PULL BACK.
DAMN!! I WANNA SHOOT IT DOWN! I CAN KILL IT RIGHT?
SINCE THIS HAPPENED, HEADQUARTERS WILL SURELY GIVE YOU PERMISSION NEXT TIME/ YOU CAN SHOOT DOWN ALL OF THEM AT ONCE. DOES THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY?
YES, IT DOES!!
URRNN...

SORRY, BUT I CAN'T TREAT YOU, OR STOP IT FROM HAPPENING DO YOUR BEST TO DIE.


I DON'T. ...THINK SO EI-THER.
PAY THE PAT-ENT FEES.
IT WASN'T OUT OF ANGER, WAS IT?
WHAT PAT-ENT FEES?


SHE JUST LEFT ME!
EHNN.
MEI-CHAN LEFT ME ALL A-LONE!
EHNN SNIFF-

Q-ko-Chan
I
END

About the Author

Ueda Hajime

1. Your favorite thing — *Escape*

2. Your least favorite thing — *The opposite of escape*

3. Your birthdate or star-sign — *Taurus*

4. What is your hobby? — *Escape*

5. People you respect — *Those who do the opposite of escape*

6. Animals you like — *Animals other than monkeys*

7. Favorite anime or movie — *JFK*

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

JSDF, page 9

The Japanese Self Defense Force is Japan's standing army. Since Article 9 of the Japanese constitution, which was drafted directly following WWII, states that Japan renounces war or the threat of force to solve international disputes, Japan is legally only allowed to defend itself. The JSDF has no long range missiles meant to hit the land, marines or amphibious units, air refueling, large caches of munitions, or even rules of engagement. Still, old foes and future potential enemies surround Japan, and as of this writing, the government is looking into changing certain parts of Article 9. Although Japan only has a force for self-defense, the JSDF is no pushover army. Even before the latest terrorist-related troubles, Japan was the sixth-largest military spender in the world.

Addresses, page 19

Japanese addresses are based on blocks rather than streets. All blocks in a town are given numbers, then each building on a block is numbered as well—the building numbers seem random but are actually numbered according to which building was constructed first on the block. The best way to find a building is to have a map drawn for you by the resident of the building, but other methods include asking the local policeman or mail carrier

Recently, the internet has helped matters with electronically generated maps that not only include the location but also certain landmarks in the area. The sign that O-ko-chan looks at is the bottom of a sign letting her know that she is on the right block to find the house she is looking for.

Sorry to Barge In, page 49

This is a translation of a standard phrase in Japanese, *Ojama shimasu*. It is nearly always said when entering a private space that is not one's own. (Usually it applies to another person's home, but it may also be said when entering someone's bedroom, office, or other space that is not open to the public.)

"O Vreneli," page 72

This is an old Swiss folk song that became well-known in Japan after it was included in Yamaha's Clavinova song list, and after it became a popular ringtone for mobile phones. Some say that Vreneli is the name of a girl, but vreneli is also a kind of Swiss coin.

Himejanome, page 94

The Himeuranamijanome is a type of butterfly that is common in Japan, but has no English name. It's official category is *Mycalesis gotama*. Hime stands for princess, and is common in Japanese plant and animal names. Uranami indicates that it has markings on the underside of its wings, and janome indicates that the marks look like eyes. Actually they look like perfectly round fish-eyes.

Tomunchap, page 114

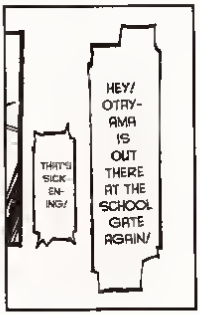
This is a direct transliteration of the *katagana* (syllabary used for foreign words) word used in the book. My guess is that the Tomun part refers to the Tomun river which, according to sources several hundred years old, was the official border between China and Korea. Therefore it may be safe to assume that the soldiers are probably Chinese and that they are fighting Japan.

See You Later, page 120

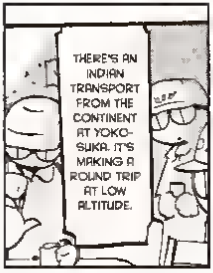
Ittekimasu is another standard Japanese phrase (see Sorry to Barge in) which is said whenever one leaves a place where one belongs (usually one's home, but it can also be said at one's place of business, school, or other highly frequented place). It means literally, I'm going and will be back. It is nearly always followed by someone being left behind saying the standard phrase, *Itterashai* (go and come back).

Otayama, page 121

This is a strange name in the Japanese version. It uses *katagana* (the syllabary for foreign words) for *Ota* and the *kanji* that means mountain for *yama*. It could also be pronounced Otasan. Recently, the word *otaku* has been shortened to *ota*, and *yama* could indicate that the character is overweight, so this seems like it could be a derogatory nickname for the character.



Moe



Yokosuka, page 124

Situated in a town just south of Yokohama, Yokosuka is one of the main United States naval bases in Japan, and a symbol of the American military and America itself to most Japanese.

Throat-dong, page 160

The *nodochinko* can be found in *Kenkyusha's New Japanese-English Dictionary*, but all it does is reference *kenyōsui*, which is the more technical term for the uvula. However, the word *nodochinko* certainly does have perverted connotations.

-ko-chan, page 178

Maru-bōshi means round hat. Tyrol (*Chiroru*, in Japanese transliteration, is a place name in both Northern Italy and in western Australia. Most likely (from the dress) the name refers to the Northern Italy location.) Native-Americanko-chan is the English words put into *katakana*. And the *hane* of *Haneko-chan* means wings. Basically all of these are descriptive phrases of the robots followed by -ko-chan to indicate that they look like young girls.

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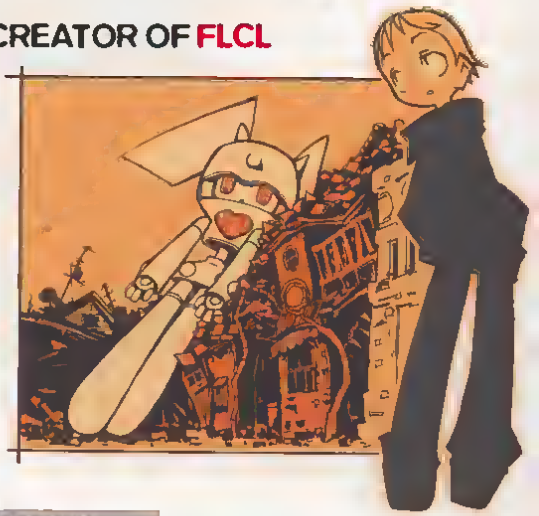

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